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Algeria

The Islamic Salvation Front was dissolved by decree of the Algier. Judicial Council's administrative chamber, Algiers radio reported. Higher State Council Chairman Boudiaf told the Cairo paper AL-AHRAM that he "hopes" to hold legislative and presidential elections within two years, the radio added.

Arab-Israeli Talks

The Palestinian delegation presented a self-government plan, Amman television reported. Delegation head 'Abd-al-Shafi said that according to the plan, "East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and whatever applies to the territories must be applied to the occupied city," the television continued. The plan also called for a 180-member council to be created by general elections held inside the territories, including East Jerusalem, by 29 September, Amman radio added. The Lebanese chief delegate said a "great deal" was achieved in talks with Israel, terming as an "accomplishment" the "mere definition of the points of difference." Voice of Lebanon reported. Suhayl Shammas noted, however, that "as long as Israel does not recognize that the Israeli Army's presence is an act of occupation, there is a fundamental flaw in our talks."

Iraq

A "strong protest" was filed in Ankara at Turkey's "repeated, flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, territory, and territorial integrity," Baghdad radio reported. According to the protest, the Turkish Air Force's 1 March activity violated a border pact and "greatly harms" the countries' bilateral relations.

Iran

Accusations by the Iraqi Kurdistan Front that Iran had bombed Kurdish regions in Iraq are "sheer lies," according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran international radio. The spokesman denied that planes had flown close to Iraqi Kurdistan recently.

Morocco

King Hassan, in a speech to the nation broadcast live by Rabat radio, announced that a referendum on a revised constitution will be held. The draft constitution, he said, will include "a reassessment of the provisions of the present constitution concerning the relationship between the legislative and executive bodies, and provide that the independence of the judiciary will remain guaranteed and an irreversible fact." He added that only "free, impartial, and credible elections" can enable the people to see through the "dark clouds" caused by party conflicts.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinians Present Self-Government Plan

JN0303203592 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2003 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington held another session with the Israeli delegation a few minutes ago. The talks are expected to focus on a draft agenda and on issues pertaining to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and the implementation of UN Resolution 242.

Earlier the Palestinian delegation held over two hours of talks with the Israeli delegation. The talks centered on interim self-government arrangements, as well as settlements in the occupied territories. Delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said he presented a detailed plan that included the Palestinian vision of self-government. He said East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories, and whatever applies to the territories must be applied to the occupied city.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, I say that we have presented the Israeli side with a detailed scheme, a detailed outline based on what we have presented to them before on 14 January. And this detailed plan explains our concept about the transition period, about the powers and the authority of the interim self-government, and also about the procedure of how to establish the interim self-government. And we emphasized the election process in detail, how to be adopted so that the interim self-government will reflect the free choice of the people. [sentence as heard] And they said they are going to comment on our plan tomorrow.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

['Abd-al-Shafi] It depends on the Israelis. If they accept the basic points that we have presented, especially with respect to cessation of the settlement process and the implementation of the principles of human rights based on Geneva Conventions, I think if they do that the road will be open for meaningful negotiations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Urge General Elections by 29 Sep

JN0403064592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 4 March 92

[Text] In Washington, Palestinians in Middle East peace talks yesterday proposed holding elections in the Israeli-occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, by September 29th to choose a body to take over control of the land.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Israel can start a program to prepare for elections, and elections should take place by September 29th. Palestinians say the poll should elect a body to take over control of the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

The Palestinian proposal came as the fourth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks neared its end. The parties are to meet one more time today before adjourning.

The 16-page Palestinian proposal calls for Israel's withdrawal from populated areas in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem to allow the holding of general elections for an 180-member assembly.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian team, said after the talks: The transition process must lead to a Palestinian state. He said: Israel must first halt settlement building in the territories and improve conditions for some 1.75 million Palestinians living in the territories.

Palestinian Delegation Head on 'Impasse'

NC0403083392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0635 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Interview with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, by VOL Washington correspondent Nuhad al-Hayik; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Shafi] The truth is that the negotiations have now reached an impasse, as each side has not accepted what the other has proposed regarding the interim period and after. The reason, of course, is the lack of agreement on the concepts regarding the interim period and the negotiations that will take place in the second stage to determine the final status of the occupied territories.

Our understanding is that the two stages constitute one integral course. The first stage is a transitional one which paves the way for the second stage. Negotiations will take place in the second stage to determine the final status of the occupied territories. For this reason, we think that no action must be taken in the first stage which would influence the outcome of the negotiations or the future of the occupied territories, hence our objection to the establishment of settlements. We demand the complete suspension of settlements. This is a basic element in the Palestinian view, which has not been accepted by the Israelis. Therefore, we do not think we must get involved in negotiations about the transfer of authority in the services fields, such as health and education, and leave out the basic issue, which is the land and control over it and over the natural resources, such as water, as well as the powers of legislation and law. All these matters must be within the jurisdiction of the transitional self-rule. This is what the Israeli side does not accept. Consequently, we have actually reached an impasse. We must evaluate the entire situation and decide on the position to adopt.

[Al-Hayik] By this, do we understand that there is a possibility you will not continue the negotiations in light of this impasse if the United States does not intervene to move things forward?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Actually, as is known, we are waiting at this time to see what the position of the American sponsor or both sponsors will be. We are convinced that our position is consistent with international legitimacy, international law, the Geneva conventions and the UN resolutions. Our position is also consistent with the peace demands. It is the Israeli position which contradicts the peace demands. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hayik] Do you think there is no possibility of making progress in the peace talks under the present Shamir government in Israel, and will there be flexibility regarding the questions of settlements and the fate of the Palestinians under another government, led by the Labor Party, for example?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The Shamir government, as is known and has been repeatedly announced, does not want to give up the land and insists on establishing settlements. Therefore, the hope that this government would be able to contribute to the peace process is perhaps dim or nonexistent. Anyway, this government has another two months to go before elections. If a Labor government is established, perhaps its position will be more flexible. But I cannot say that this position will necessarily constitute the minimum limit of the Palestinian demand. At any rate, there will perhaps be scope for negotiations to see if there are possibilities.

[Al-Hayik] Actually, the Israeli proposals contained in the document they submitted to us on their views concerning the transitional period are very adverse. They are designed to perpetuate the occupation and even enable the occupation to consolidate its control over the occupied areas and the people. The proposals do not give the Palestinian autonomous government any genuine powers during the interim period. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hayik] How is it possible to overcome this impasse?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The question must be addressed to the sponsor of the conference and to the entire democratic world, which not long ago launched a devastating war that destroyed an Arab state under the flag of the United Nations, international law, and so forth. The world manages matters with either one scale or two, as we are seeing now—and this will make a mockery of international law and human rights. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Delegate Says 'Great Deal' Achieved

NC0303215992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Report by Nuhad al-Hayik from Washington]

[Text] [Al-Hayik] After six sessions in this round, the Lebanese-Israeli talks seem to be stuck on the controversial issue of whether Israel is an occupation force.

Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas stressed the need for Israel to admit that it is an occupation force in Lebanon. Following today's three-hour session of talks with the Israeli delegation, he said: As long as Israel does not recognize that the Israeli Army's presence is an act of occupation, there is a fundamental flaw in our talks. He reiterated Lebanon's stand that there will be no peace until Israel clearly recognizes Resolution 425 and the mechanism of its implementation, the two issues that remain the essence of the peace process and genuine progress.

The Israeli side released a statement in Arabic, read out by its press attache as the Israeli delegation moved after its talks with the Lebanese delegation to meet with senior State Department officials. The statement said that the Israeli side proposed agreeing on an agenda comprising all substantive issues that need full discussion. This constitutes a mechanism for progress toward a comprehensive bilateral peace treaty between the two countries.

The Israeli delegation affirmed in its statement that there is no option but comprehensive bilateral peace and that this peace can be achieved only by Lebanon and Israel, not by any other party, be it a friend or brother.

The statement also revealed that the Israeli side discussed with the Lebanese delegation the Syrian presence in Lebanon, which poses a threat to Israel; as well as the Iranian presence, which works against the peace process; and the Lebanese Government's stand on Hizballah and its terrorist acts against Israel, which the Lebanese Government regards as legitimate, a position incompatible with the peace process. The statement said that the Israeli side asked the Lebanese delegation to identify the Lebanese Government that asked Iran to send troops from the Revolutionary Guards to Lebanon to encourage operations against Israel and other Western targets.

Thus, the atmosphere seemed charged today and the stands on two extremes prompt the question: What has resulted from this round?

Ambassador Shammas answered this question by saying: We have achieved a great deal. Perhaps the other side will not agree with me on that. He regarded the mere definition of the points of difference as an accomplishment, especially as the other side does not acknowledge occupying Lebanon.

[Announcer] Palestinian sources said that the Palestinians are expected to propose to the Israeli delegation a detailed autonomy plan. The sources added that the proposal relies on a previous proposal calling for general elections in the occupied territories to form a 180-member parliament that would take over from the Israeli Army the authority to run daily affairs in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian sources said that the 17-page Palestinian proposal received the approval of the PLO, which also helped in its preparation.

Syrian Says Israeli 'Allegations' Refuted

JN0303215392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2118 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has stated that at

today's meeting, the delegation refuted all of the allegations made during yesterday's meeting by the Israeli side with regard to the Israeli aggression against the Arab states in 1967 and the interpretation of Resolution 242 issued by the Security Council in the wake of that aggression.

In a statement to journalists following the meeting, al-'Allaf said: With official documents, with the report of the then UN secretary general, and with statements made by Israeli leaders themselves, we have proven that Israel was the one that started the 1967 aggression. Al-'Allaf added: We have spoken in detail about the years and months preceding 1967, during which Israel launched numerous attacks against Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon, attacks that were denounced by the Security Council and the United Nations.

Al-'Allaf stated: We also refuted everything that they said yesterday and in the past about their interpretation of Resolution 242 which, they claim, allows them to keep some of the territory they have occupied through that aggression. Al-'Allaf asserted that Resolution 242 cannot be interpreted by this or that party. The resolution, he said, is very clear and is clearly controlled by the important principle contained in its preamble: namely, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war.

Al-'Allaf emphasized that Israel itself was established on the basis of expansion and aggression. He said: It is enough to look at the maps of the region throughout those years to see how Israel expanded, time and again, after every aggressive war it launched.

Responding to a question about the possibility of holding another round of peace talks, al-'Allaf said: This matter has not been discussed yet. Our position, however, is known. Regarding the venue, we are now here in Washington and we want to stay in Washington until we achieve progress. As far as the date is concerned, if things stay the way they are now, then we will maintain our opinion on the next round until we assess what has been achieved in this round.

Jordanians To Ask Cosponsor Intervention

JN0303191192 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] A round of talks between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations to the peace negotiations in Washington is scheduled to be held at 2200 Jordan time today. A round of talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations began in Washington today at 1700 Jordan time.

Prior to the start of the new round of talks, the head of the Palestinian delegation stressed that there is no alternative to negotiations despite Israel's intentions with regard to them. More details in the following report:

A few hours ago, Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were resumed in a bid to attain whatever can be realized through negotiations since, according to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, there is no alternative to negotiations.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording in English] This is a vicious circle, and it cannot be stopped except by resorting to the principles of justice and fairness. [end recording]

With regard to the self-rule plan proposed to Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: It is no more than a project that consolidates the occupation and the current situation.

The economic adviser to the Israeli Defense Ministry and member of the Israeli delegation had presented a project on trade, industry, and health in the occupied territories. In his plan, he called on the Palestinians to negotiate on the basis of the Israeli proposals and not to adopt a position that represents the choice of gaining everything or nothing.

Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, described the Israeli negotiating style as arrogant and unacceptable.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] Negotiations should be conducted between equals on terms of mutual respect and not between occupier and occupied, and not between a superior and an inferior base. [end recording]

The situation was no better with regard to the Syrians. The head of the Israeli delegation assigned to negotiate with the Syrians and the Lebanese, Yosi Ben-Aharon, entered into an argument with the members of the Syrian delegation about the reasons for and results of the June 1967 war. The Syrian delegation considered the Israeli position to be absurd.

[Begin Muwaffaq al-'Allaf recording in English] It is a matter of deep concern to us that the Israeli delegation is confirming more and more that they did not come here in order to make peace. The session was wasted completely on the attempt of the Israeli delegation to oblige us to listen to a full history and documentation of past hostilities between Israel and the Arab world. [end recording]

As far as this situation is concerned, the Jordanian delegation announced yesterday that it will ask the cosponsors of the peace process to intervene to force Israel to change its position toward peace.

[Begin Jordanian delegation spokesman Marwan al-Mu'ashshir recording in English] Are the Israelis interested in discussing the issues that divide us, or are they interested in a cost-free peace? What we have seen so far for the Israeli is suggestions for its cost-free peace. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Nusaybah Predicts No Progress in Fourth Round

TA0303180292 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 2 Mar 92 p 16

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-MANAR, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, member of the Palestinian delegation's Guidance Committee and leader of the Palestinian negotiating team in the third round, said that no progress will be achieved in the fourth round in Washington, and that Israel is refusing to discuss substantive issues.

Dr. Nusaybah added that he believed it will be difficult to continue the negotiations in view of this Israeli position, which has still not changed, and proposed the suspension of the talks in response to this position. Nusaybah ruled out the possibility of any new development that might contribute to advancing the peace process before the Israeli elections, and said that this does not mean the next government will change the current position adopted by Shamir's government.

Dr. Nusaybah said that the U.S. Administration is interested in the negotiating sides reaching peace agreements without its intervention, and this is its policy.

Regarding the Jordanian position, Dr. Nusaybah said that it is a good position and there is continuous coordination between the Palestinian and Jordanian delegations.

Al-Husayni Comments on Negotiations

NC2903205192 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 28 Feb 92 p 18

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation's advisory team, by Dr. Salwa Abu-Si'dah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Abu-Si'dah] It has been reported that the Palestinian delegation recently submitted a 15-point plan or memorandum to the U.S. and Israel related to some demands and queries. Is this true?

[Al-Husayni] We have not submitted anything of the sort to Israel. We did submit several memoranda to the United States, including a 25-point memorandum in which we presented our concept of confidence-building measures. We also submitted another 15-point memorandum on the settlements, in which we specified the measures that should be implemented to halt them. These were attempts we made with the U.S. side. We have already given the Israelis our concept of the transition period and the autonomy issue.

[Abu-Si'dah] What was the Israeli reply?

[Al-Husayni] They have not yet replied.

[Abu-Si'dah] Reports indicate that you received a message from James Baker yesterday. Did it mention U.S. approval for Palestinians from outside the occupied territories to join the multilateral negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] The Americans told us this orally and confirmed it in writing. In the message, they confirmed that they support and will support the presence of Palestinians from outside in the multilateral talks.

[Abu-Si'dah] Will Israel agree?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that it will be difficult for Israel, especially in the multilateral negotiations, to continue to impose its view on the representatives of 33 countries. It will not remain an obstacle. It will be difficult for Israel to continue to say no to all the participants.

[Abu-Si'dah] Do you expect more Israeli prevarication in the next round of talks? What are the most important issues that you will raise?

[Al-Husayni] We are expecting prevarication from the Israeli side, and therefore, we will raise a number of specific issues and questions during the next round to overcome these tactics. The most important of these issues are the settlement policy, the detentions, the escalation of violence inside the territories, the continuing wrecking of confidence, and all the other things which the Israeli side is doing.

[Abu-Si'dah] Why is Israel escalating the situation in south Lebanon? Are these operations linked to the election campaign, or are they aimed at damaging the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that the Israeli escalation which we are witnessing in south Lebanon is the result of all these factors combined. Israel wants to destroy the peace process and deprive it of any substance, because in the final analysis, it wants to put the Palestinians in a position where we have to continue to take part in the negotiations, but without hope of reaching any results. This has not and will not happen because there are fundamental issues, such as settlements, that will remain on the agenda regardless of how much Israel tries to bypass them by creating problems or raising other issues.

[Abu-Si'dah] You told AL-MUSAWWAR once that you expect the Labor Party to win the Israeli elections. Do you still believe that? Do you think it will be able to form the new government in cooperation with some of the other parties?

[Al-Husayni] I hold to my previous opinion. It is very possible that the Alignment will be able to form the new government with the cooperation of the existing left-wing and Arab forces.

[Abu-Si'dah] What is your view of the formation of a refugee committee during the Moscow negotiations?

[Al-Husayni] There can, in fact, be no talk about the Middle East without touching on or dealing with the refugee question. For example, we now have a presence

in two committees: The economic development committee and the refugee committee. It is our right to participate with the Palestinians from abroad in all the other committees as well.

[Abu-Si'dah] How do you assess Arab coordination between the concerned parties in the current stage of the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] The current coordination among the Arab parties is better than it was before the Moscow multilateral negotiations.

'Urayqat Views U.S.-Israeli Ties

TA0203142992 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Feb 92 p 9

[By Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of Palestinian negotiating delegation: "The Talks and the Interactions!"]

[Text] It seems that the Israeli election campaign crept into the negotiations with the Arab parties even before the Israeli delegation's entry. The fourth round of the bilateral negotiations began with extensive Israeli Government statements regarding the continuation of settlement activities.

The start of the fourth round of negotiations coincided with the hearings conducted by the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which he linked the granting of loan guarantees to Israel to the halt of settlement activity in the occupied territories. Thus, the current U.S. Administration adopted a practical measure concerning settlements and deviated from the pronounced positions, adopted since 1967, with regard to settlement activity. The message that Baker sent when he linked the loan guarantees to settlements and threw the ball into the Israeli court—to choose between loan guarantees and settlements—contained more than the need to stop settlement activity. With Israel's request of $10 billion in loan guarantees for the next five years, the total sum that Washington will have to grant Israel over the next five years will amount to $30 billion, since Israel currently receives $4 billion annually in economic and military aid. What Baker implied was that the United States can no longer meet those enormous obligations.

Baker chose to confront Israel with the condition of stopping settlement activity in return for obtaining the guarantees simultaneously with the start of the fourth round of Arab-Israeli talks, and at a time when primaries are being held in the United States to choose presidential candidates from the Democratic and Republican Parties. This means that Israel must face the post-cold war and post-Gulf war realities and deal with the requirements of the new international era.

The U.S. Administration is aware that merely demanding a halt to settlements and considering settlement activity illegal or an obstacle to peace do not prevent the continuation of this activity. There is a contradiction between this position and enabling Israel financially to continue the settlement activity. Apparently, the rapid changes that have taken place in the military map of the Middle East region include Israel, and are not limited to the Arabs alone.

But does this mean that the U.S.-Israeli relationship will shift from that of an alliance to a confrontation? The answer to this question is very clear. What is currently taking place between the United States and Israel is within the framework of the alliance. Baker affirmed that Washington was committed to Israel's security and economic needs, and that the disagreement was only over the settlement issue.

Here, the talk about stopping settlement activity signifies the U.S. perception of the current negotiations process in Washington. During the negotiating rounds that followed the Madrid conference, it became clear to the entire world that the Israeli concept of peace is based on normalization with the Arabs and the conclusion of peace treaties with them, while at the same time holding on to the Arab territories occupied since 1967.

What has happened during the past few days in Washington between Israel and the Arab sides is that the Israeli and Arab delegations repeated what they had said in the previous rounds; that is, the negotiations are still being conducted on the basis of two principles:

1. An Arab principle based on land for peace.

2. An Israeli principle based on peace treaties while keeping the occupied territories.

Should the current situation continue, the negotiating rounds will not go beyond empty circles that will expand with each round.

As for the Palestinian-Israeli talks—in light of the ideas presented about the Israeli concept of the transitional phase, which were devoid of any worthwhile content or even commitment to the principles of the peace process, and were confined only to the framework of a solution based on functional-administrative powers in the occupied territories; that is, the transfer of power to "individuals" with continued Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories and lack of commitment to human rights principles and foundations—the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions has become so large that talk about negotiations has become mere talk that has no connection to negotiations in the acceptable norms. The interactions and involvements outside the negotiation rooms have now become more important than those inside the rooms.

'Arafat Meets al-Baz During Cairo Stopover

NC0403071492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo at an early hour this morning

after stopping at Cairo airport for a number of hours on his way from Sanaa to Tripoli on a visit to Libya.

During his stopover in Cairo, President Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, who was at the airport to receive him and see him off.

PLO Delegates Confer With Lebanon's Buwayz

LD2802233892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] A PLO delegation consisting of brothers Salah Salah, Salih Zaydan, and Abu-Fadi Raji met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They discussed recent developments concerning the peace talks currently under way in Washington, as well as the need to coordinate Arab stances in these talks. They also reviewed Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

Algeria

Algiers Court Ruling Dissolves FIS

LD0403123792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] We return now to the issue of the case of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Our correspondent at the Algiers court has just contacted us and informed us that the administrative chamber of the Algiers Judicial Council [court] has decided to dissolve the FIS.

Boudiaf 'Hopes' for Elections 'in 2 Years'

LD0403105892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The president [as heard] of the Higher State Council hopes to organize legislative and presidential elections in two years. Mr. Boudiaf said this in an interview in today's edition of the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM.

Democracy is the only way out, he stated, but he qualified this by noting that it must be based on healthy foundations. Political parties based on religion are not constitutional, he added.

Discusses Youth, Foreign Policy

NC0303225792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Mohamed Boudiaf, head of the Algerian State Council, has emphasized that Egypt's stands under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak on Algeria and all Arabs are honorable. He said that Egypt's stand on the recent events and its call for not interfering in Algeria's affairs is the stand of a responsible, conscientious, and wise state.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published on 4 March, Boudiaf said that Egypt plays a major role in the region in view of its location and historical, cultural, diplomatic, and democratic assets.

He expressed optimism about the future of Egyptian-Algerian relations, adding: We will always work to develop these relations for our mutual benefit.

Boudiaf said that many youngsters are attached to the Islamic Salvation Front not because they believe in it or its program but because of their lack of political consciousness and their hostility toward the National Liberation Front.

He noted that his idea of democracy is based on sound foundations that stipulate that there should be no parties operating on religious bases. He asserted: We will never allow this because religion is for God and the homeland is for everyone and religion should not be used for political ends.

Commenting on unemployment and Algeria's current debt, Boudiaf said: The economic machine had been in a state of complete collapse and thus we had to work to expeditiously emerge from this acute crisis marked by unemployment and debt. Our current policy is based on our gaining maximum benefit from Algeria's potential and on devising major programs to face the chronic economic and social problems.

In reply to a question Boudiaf said that Algeria's foreign policy in the coming phase will be more positive in working for the good of Algeria and in consolidating the intention of not interfering in others' affairs.

On his assessment of the Gulf war, he said that the occupation of an Arab country contributed to the weakness of the Arab League and that this weakness led to the intervention by foreign forces. He stated that the Arab world gained nothing from this war.

Commenting on Algeria's relations with Iran, he said: We feel great regret. Iranian leaders seemed to forget what Algeria did for Iran during the U.S. hostage crisis, our handling of Iran's interests in the United States, and our mediation between it and Iraq to end their war. Therefore, their recent stand on events in Algeria and their fierce campaign against Algeria had an effect, and we asked for their ambassador to be withdrawn and we recalled our own.

Boudiaf urged the energization of the Arab League's role, the enhancement of its powers, and the reform of its (?internal) structure. He also called for promoting cooperation between rich and poor Arab countries and for a formula to be worked out through the Arab League to help Arab countries that come under pressure or suffer from economic problems.

On the Sahara issue, Boudiaf said that the Higher State Council is currently doing its utmost to find a solution to this issue. As for the arrangements of this solution and whether they will be undertaken through the United Nations or other parties, he added that this is up to the parties concerned with the issue: Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania, and the Saharans. He noted that there now exists a genuine desire to resolve this issue which benefits no one.

Holds Talks With European Parliamentarian

LD0303115892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, yesterday received Henri Saby, president of the European Parliament's Standing Committee for Development and Cooperation. Discussions during the meeting centered on developments in the national situation.

Following the meeting the European parliamentarian said that Mohamed Boudiaf believes that Algeria's difficulties require international cooperation to provide the Algerian people with the means of living and subsisting

instead of being subservient. He added that the chairman of the Higher State Council expressed his hope that the democratic process will be resumed in the shortest possible time.

The European parliamentarian said that it is encouraging to see that the views of the EC and Algeria are identical and to note Algeria's definite determination to overcome difficulties and protect the dignity of its people.

Henri Saby added that his talks with the officials of various societies in Algeria were also constructive. This will enable him to report to the European Parliament on the situation in Algeria, he stated. In short, he will return with a fuller and clearer picture than that conveyed by the media.

FFS Opposes 'Unsuitable' Government Program

LD0303094792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] In a statement issued today the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] said that it considers the government's program unsuitable in terms of its presentation and that it is inappropriate socially in terms of its contents. The FFS statement indicates that the activities stipulated in the program are uncoordinated and without fixed deadlines, and that they do not correspond to the required comprehensive strategy which should include the severance of all ties with the structures, practices, and men of the previous regime.

The FFS statement added that the public sector and social balances are threatened by unsuitable directions under the cover of an organizing state on the one hand, and by liberalization measures, which include a certain privatization of the public sector and an anarchic lifting of price restrictions, on the other.

Islamic Call League Leader Urges Dialogue

LD0303052192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, leader of the League of the Islamic Call, has at last broken his long silence in a statement to the newspaper L'EVEIL, to be published tomorrow. Cheikh Sahnoun addressed a call for dialogue and consultation among all sides concerned for the purpose of finding a quick solution to the situation in which the country finds itself.

Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun said that the present situation is the result of an operation to abort the democratic process—a matter that threatens to deepen the abyss between the authorities and the people.

In evaluating the Islamic awakening in Algeria, he strongly criticized the absence of consultations among the Islamic parties, the rejection of other sides' ways of thinking, the various interpretations of the spirit of the Islamic message, and the worship of persons and leaders.

'Financial Cleansing' Not Achieved in Talks

LD0303102992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The tripartite meeting of the government, the General Union of Algerian Workers, and public enterprise employers has concluded without a final resolution of the question of the financial cleansing of the enterprises. These operations will be completed by the end of June.

Earlier the daily LE MATIN had reported that another tripartite meeting will be held and will be enlarged to include the central and commercial banking institutions. The paper made it clear that the subject of the upcoming meeting will not be confined to discussing the topic of financial cleansing but will tackle financing issues in various fields within the framework of rectifying the state of these economic institutions.

Constantine University-Student Dialogue Fails

LD0303102492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The council of Ain el-Bey University, in Constantine, has decided to hand over the task of restoring calm and security to its premises to those vested with this responsibility. This was announced in a statement sent to APS tonight.

In the statement the council announced the failure of its attempt to hold a dialogue with the group of students responsible for the strike.

Egypt

Mediation Efforts in Lockerbie Dispute Discussed

Official Hopes for 'Quick Resolution'

NC0103071792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security Committee, has expressed hope for a quick resolution of Libya's crisis with the United States, France, and Britain concerning the trial of two Libyans in connection with the airplane issue.

At the committee's meeting last night, Dr. Shihab said that now that Egypt has succeeded in promoting a policy of restraint, and has prevented any plans to commit military aggression against Libya, President Mubarak is trying to protect Libya from economic sanctions. He emphasized that Egypt's efforts are compatible with its important vanguard role at this stage.

Commentary Praises Mubarak Effort

NC0103164292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "President Mubarak and the Difficult Mission"]

[Text] When President Mubarak began, with utmost sincerity, to deal with Libya's dispute with the United States and Europe—which deals with accusations that Libya was involved in the downing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland and a French one over Niger—his handling of this very grave and complex matter was based on two premises. First, that Egypt rejects all forms of terrorism, and consequently, will not defend it. Egypt is operating within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 731, not against it. Second, if Egypt had evidence that Libya was, in fact, involved in those two incidents, it would not have endeavored to help Libya, because Egypt cannot defend dishonesty.

President Mubarak is proceeding from the second premise, and is trying to contain the crisis. He seeks to spare Libya and the Libyan people certain perils, including a possible military strike. He has acted swiftly and sincerely. Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said, following a meeting with President Mubarak last year, that a military strike had been prepared and was about to be carried out. Mubarak's intensive and sincere efforts averted that particular catastrophe.

Mubarak has continued his efforts to contain the crisis by peaceful means and to allow an international court to hear the case.

While President Mubarak's continuing efforts in this regard are enjoying Arab and international appreciation, the Libyan brothers realize the gravity of the situation and the serious consequences they might face if the issue is not peacefully resolved. The continuing consultations between President Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have produced results that have calmed the U.S., French, and British tempers, without actually ending the crisis. Such an end hinges on wise measures that satisfy all parties concerned.

U.S. and West European press commentaries highlighted Mubarak's efforts during the Egyptian-French summit in Paris, the Egyptian-Moroccan summit in Marrakech, his telephone conversations with the custodian of the two holy mosques [Saudi King Fahd], his conversations with brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and with U.S. President Bush. By noting that President Mubarak's aim is to defuse the crisis between Libya and the West, these commentaries understand Egypt's objective. The president's talks in Paris and Marrakech, and his consultations with several Arab leaders, come at a critical and serious time. The crisis might be exacerbated in mid-March if there is any truth to reports that the United States is seeking a new UN Security Council resolution against Libya. This one will reportedly involve sanctions, including an air blockade and an oil and arms embargo if Libya does not comply with Resolution 731, which calls for Libya to hand over the two Libyan nationals accused of downing the U.S. and French planes.

Egypt's aim is to prevent the use of force against fraternal Libya. It is moving at the summit level to attain this objective and prevent reprisals or an economic embargo.

When Mubarak's Egypt acts to attain this goal, Egypt and President Mubarak are not covering up for a crime in which hundreds of innocent people died. They are operating within principles that support right and justice and oppose falsehood and aggression. The Libyan leadership is responsive to the proposal to try the suspects in an international court. It is not opposed to that call. It has even proposed trying the two suspects in any capital not involved in the crisis. Its first suggestion was to place the matter before the International Court of Justice or any other international body chosen by the Security Council. Hence, when Egypt deals with this crisis, it ponders the U.S.-French-British stance and the Libyan stance. The Security Council has ruled that the two Libyan suspects should be handed over to be tried. Now it has another opportunity to deal with this crisis.

The Arabs, notably the Libyan brothers, have voiced their appreciation for President Mubarak's sincere efforts in connection with this serious crisis. Egypt and President Mubarak have undertaken this role in line with their irrevocable principles of supporting right and justice and opposing falsehood and terrorism.

'Strange Positions' Adopted

NC2902131292 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Feb 92 p 3

[By Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah and 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn]

[Text] The Egyptian Government adopted two very strange positions this week in response to U.S. pressure. It supported the U.S. demand for handing over the two Libyan suspects, and responded to a request by the U.S. Administration to wrap up the crisis caused by the discovery of an Israeli espionage network in Egypt.

Informed sources have told AL-SHA'B that the Egyptian Government's change of position on the downing of the U.S. plane came as a surprise to Libya, which immediately sent its foreign secretary to Egypt to learn why Egypt had abandoned its support for the Libyan stance in its dispute with the U.S. Administration. The sources revealed that the U.S. Administration informed Egypt that it cannot guarantee that U.S.-Egyptian relations will retain their current status if Egypt continues to back Libya in its dispute with Britain and the U.S. Administration. The United States said that it expects Egypt to support Washington and London's future steps to penalize Libya if the two suspects are not handed over.

During his talks in Cairo, the Libyan foreign secretary said he is willing to accept any Egyptian solution connected with putting the two Libyan suspects on trial, stipulating that such a solution must preserve Libyan sovereignty and be in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. Cairo's response was that Libya should comply with the UN Security Council resolution on this issue to avoid impending punitive measures, including possible military aggression.

On another issue, Egypt complied with a U.S. request to contain its current espionage dispute with Israel. The United States warned that this crisis poisons Egyptian-Israeli ties and hinders the current so-called peace process. This happened at a time when serious information continues to surface about the activity of the Israeli espionage network in Egypt. It has been revealed that the network's members have been active for three years, and that Arab parties informed the Egyptian security agencies of their movements. These Arab parties also supplied Egypt with information about the spies' former activity against citizens of the occupied territories, in Kafr Qasim in the Triangle area, where these spies resided in 1989.

The Egyptian security forces arrested the spies after some Egyptians in sensitive government posts became involved in relations with the "Misrati" network. This reached the point where one highly placed Egyptian began an illicit relationship with the spy's daughter, and another one made plans to marry her.

The network's activity spread to areas outside Cairo. An Egyptian in al-Buhayrah Governorate was arrested in January while spying on important installations. He was found to be in possession of equipment similar to that seized with the Misrati family. A possible connection between this person and the spy network is being investigated.

U.S. Position 'Astonishing'

NC0303153192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—In a commentary today, the newspaper AL-AHRAM terms the U.S. position toward Libya astonishing. Despite great efforts by the United States to further the peace talks between Israel and the Arabs and defuse all sources of tension in the Middle East, it took a particularly tough position on the case of the two Libyans accused of blowing up two passenger planes.

The United States, the paper writes, has rejected all mediation, shrugged off legalities, and dismissed compromise solutions that have been offered. The United States insists that the two men be handed over to stand trial on U.S. soil and according to U.S. law, overlooking the fact that the two individuals are citizens of an independent and sovereign country. There is no modern precedent for such a demand, AL-AHRAM says.

The paper adds that every time the intensity of Libyan-U.S. enmity recedes—due to the intercession of mediators and careful Libyan efforts to avoid confrontation—Washington fans the fire of hostility, rejecting all Libyan explanations and reviving its old differences with Libya. The latest examples of this policy are U.S. claims that Libya hosts bases for training terrorists and that Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] lives in Tripoli, claims which Libya denies.

Dispute 'Does Not Rest' on Lockerbie

NC0203210992 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Feb 92 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Nabil Zaki: "The Libyan File"]

[Text] Statements published in THE WASHINGTON POST, citing U.S. officials, indicate that the current problem between the West and Libya is not restricted to the incidents of the American and French planes. All statements indicate that even if Libya were to hand over the two citizens accused in the incidents, the issue would not end. The Libyan file would not be closed. This is because such accusations crop up every now and then, such as the one that Libya has "terrorist" training camps. Those who brought these charges confirm that these camps have been closed down. What, then, is the problem? The answer is that the "terrorists" have been moved to another training location. Where? They say nothing.

The rest of the items on the list of accusations, which could go on forever, may not be able to be clarified now. Nevertheless, all this forces us to ask the following question: Is the true objective to change the regime in Libya?

We do not need to say here that the only party that has such a right is the Libyan people themselves and that any aggression on Libya will inflame anti-West sentiment in this region. The Arabs will be convinced that they are on the verge of a racist war, which has nothing to do with combating terrorism. The accepted basis of international law, as clarified by the Arab Society for Political Sciences, is that the articles of criminal law in every country apply to its citizens regarding criminal acts committed inside the country, or outside, if they return to their home country.

There is nothing in international or national law that forces any country to hand over its citizens accused of committing crimes outside the country to another country; as long as no agreement has been reached over the issue.

Libya approved of a joint investigation in the presence of judges from the United States, France, and Britain. It proposed forming an international investigation committee set up by the United Nations. It also accepted

referral of the case to the International Court of Justice and to send the accused to France to make their statements.

These facts reveal that the issue does not rest entirely on Lockerbie.

Egypt 'Rises Above Pettiness'

NC0203145292 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] It is of course quite clear that Egypt is the only Arab country acting to tackle the crisis between Libya and the Western countries. All the others are, without exception, standing aloof or keeping a distance, either because they do not want to get involved, or because they see it as an opportunity to settle old accounts.

Egypt, thank God, rises above pettiness. It does not condone terrorism, but is attempting the impossible task of closing the doors against the spread of new waves of terrorism, something that is not in the world's interest.

An important question is raised here:

Has Arab solidarity receded to the point where each country is only concerned with itself? As evidence, Kuwait is preoccupied with its prisoners and celebrations of the liberation anniversary. Qatar is focusing all its attention on its dispute with Bahrain, which has reached the International Court of Justice; and Sudan is trying to extricate itself from the tight corner it has backed itself into.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 demolished the walls of Arab solidarity. We had hoped that these walls would be rebuilt following the triumph of legitimacy and human will. But the consequences were regrettably the opposite. Every country has gone its own way and the worst thing is that the signs do not indicate anything good is in the offing.

Egypt is a unique example and its responsibilities are unequalled. It fully realizes the usefulness of achieving peace in the Middle East. It defended Kuwait with the blood of its sons and with their weapons, because it was defending a principle at a time when principles were being sold very cheaply. It was the country that opened its television station to the Kuwaiti ambassador to speak about the first anniversary of the liberation, with his country's flag next to him.

By God, who could do this but Egypt? If one looks all over the world, one will never find such nobility, loyalty, and profound appreciation for the truth. Frankly, we are not seeking any reward or thanks from anyone.

We are not concerned if the Gulf countries strengthen their relations with Iran, though we will not be lax in defending any of them if the need arises.

We are never worried if some people make erroneous comparisons between Saddam Husayn's behavior and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's policy with the intention of inspiring malicious speculation. The difference between the two is clear. Libya did not commit aggression against a fraternal country and is, while the fire is raging, responding to the international community and its resolutions, unlike Iraq.

At any rate, Egypt will continue to hoist the banner of justice, righteousness, and peace, regardless of whether there is hope of achieving Arab solidarity. We are praying from the bottom of our hearts for the liberation of souls from all blemishes so that ranks, hearts, and minds can be united.

Musa: 'Not Yet Time To Despair' on Talks

NC0303133592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this afternoon for Tunis on a two-day visit to Tunisia, during which he will hold talks with Tunisian officials. In a departure statement, Musa said that he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Minister Musa added that the visit aims to exchange views on regional issues, including the peace process and certain crises involving Arab sides, as well as bilateral relations.

Concerning the bilateral talks between Arab countries and Israel, 'Amr Musa said that the talks should continue. He added that positive signs have been rare in the talks, but there are hopes pinned on their continuation [hunaka amal ma'qudah 'ala istimrariha].

The foreign minister said that the principle of land for peace should continue to be upheld, noting that the entire international community and the countries in the region are committed to that principle. Musa said that commitment to this principle should be shown and a momentum for its application should be created during the talks.

Musa said that it is not yet time to despair over the negotiations. He added that we hope that this time will never come and that the peace process will continue on the basis of the restoration of the occupied Arab land and the rights of the Palestinian people. The talks, he said, should aim at reaching a peace agreement in accordance with the spirit of and in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Concerning Egypt's role in promoting the peace process, Musa said that Egypt is playing a role by contacting Arab countries and Israel. Egypt, he noted, can hold a dialogue with Israel because there is peace between them. The Egyptian role, he added, should be used to promote the interests of peace, the rights of the Palestinian people, and the prospects for a better future.

'Amr Musa said the role of the United States and Russia is important, and they must intervene at some moment or stage, but this is left up to them. He noted that there are contacts between Egypt and the United States and Russia, and discussions were held with the Russian foreign minister during his visit to Egypt, in addition to contacts with the United States, the Arab countries, and Israel. He added that Egypt is interested in the continuation of the peace process and international pressure to implement the principle of land for peace.

The foreign minister said that continuing the building of settlements is very negative, dangerous for the peace process, and illegal.

In reply to a question on what was said in Libya yesterday about handing over the two defendants, the foreign minister said: The final decision has not been made. Egypt is interested in the welfare of the Libyan people and in respect for Libya's sovereignty. We want to see that force is not used and that international legitimacy is respected. As Arabs we stand with the international community, opposed to terrorist and criminal actions such as Lockerbie and other cases. Therefore, wisdom must prevail in this regard and the defendants should be tried with full respect for international principles.

Musa on Lockerbie Stance, Arab Ties

PM0203121792 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Feb 92 pp 14-15

[Inteview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Husayn Tantawi in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has spoken to AL-HAWADITH of the danger of continued settlement in the occupied territories and the construction of more settlements by Israel. He said the Arab side fully rejected that policy and that there was no way such illegitimate action could be accepted. These actions, he said, have disappointed many people. He denied any differences of opinion between Egypt and Syria regarding the peace process.

On Egypt's position on the current problem between Libya on the one hand and the United States and France on the other regarding extradition of those accused of involvement in the bombing of the U.S. and French airliners, he said: Egypt's position in this connection is crystal clear. We care first of all about the Libyan people's interests and Libya's stability. At the same time we are interested in the application of international legitimacy. We must, therefore, stand agasinst terorism and terrorist operations.

In his interview with AL-HAWADITH, he also discussed the dimensions of Egyptian-Saudi relations. [passage omitted]

He also talked about a number of other issues.

[Tantawi] How do you view the Middle East peace developments, and what are your expectations for the future?

[Musa] Our expectations are linked to the latest developments. We see the peace process as a necessity and we support it. The negotiating table is the place where the parties can reach a just peace agreement based on the principle of land for peace. Egypt firmly supports the peace negotiations. We played a positive part in getting the peace process started. The process started in Madrid and continued in Washington, leading, so far, to the multilateral talks in Moscow. [passage omitted]

[Tantawi] What is the situation in Egyptian-Iranian relations? There have been some reports about Syrian and Omani mediation, indicating that some steps have been taken.

[Musa] Iran is a fraternal Islamic state, and it believes it has a role to play. We also believe that we play a fundamental role in the region's developments. We, of course, have no objection to hearing what the Iranian brothers have to say, and they certainly have no objection to hearing what we have to say. So things depend on the circumstances, and we hope that developments will lead to better relations.

[Tantawi] There is agreement between the states of the region and the United States that it is time for Saddam Husayn to go. How true is that?

[Musa] There is no such agreement at all. The situation in Iraq concerns the people of Iraq and the change of government in Iraq is also up to the people of Iraq. There is no joint plan on this.

[Tantawi] What is the latest on the Egyptian mediation on the Lockerbie issue?

[Musa] We are interested in striking a balance between two things. The first is ensuring the safety and the rights of our Libyan brothers. The second is that we all stand against terrorism and terrorist acts, all of which are uncivilized. That is because we want to cleanse the image of the Arab states and the Arab people, and rid them of the stigma of terrorism, which is very harmful to us abroad. I want to emphasize that we oppose any military operation against Libya. We also do not want Libyan sovereignty to be undermined.

[Tantawi] How do you envisage Egypt's relations with the Commonwealth republics which were formerly part of the Soviet Union, particularly in view of Turkey and Iran's increasing rapprochement with these republics?

[Musa] We are now trying to find mechanisms for cooperation with the states which emerged after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. We have already sent a high-level delegation, headed by the deputy prime minister for planning, and including a number of ministers, businessmen, and others. They visited most of these republics, and there will be other delegations. We will

assess the matter from all angles. We certainly intend to cooperate with these states and their peoples. [passage omitted]

If some of the region's states are concentrating on some of these republics, such as the Islamic republics for example, that is their affair, but we want to develop our relations with all the republics. [passage omitted]

[Tantawi] What were the results of your talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal last week?

[Musa] We have active, direct, and continuous consultations with Saudi Arabia. In my talks with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the Sa'udi delegation to the Egyptian-Sa'udi Joint Committee meetings, I discussed several Arab and international political issues of common interest. We reaffirmed our pan-Arab and historical commitment to the restoration of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, especially their right to self-determination, and our commitment to making continuous efforts to enhance the peace process and promote a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We discussed the position of the Arab delegations in the bilateral negotiations. Through their positive participation in the negotiations these delegations proved that they are sincere and serious about the peace process. We regretted the obstruction of these negotiations and called on Israel to honor its commitment to peace in accordance with all the articles and provisions of Resolution 425.

There can be no doubt that Arab participation in the multilateral talks has helped produce a certain international conviction that the negotiations, as part of the peace process, are based on the principle of land for peace, and that it is unreasonable to consider any regional cooperation in the region while Arab territories are under repressive Israeli occupation; while the Palestinian people are denied their right to self-determination; and while Israel maintains its policy of settlement in the occupied Arab territories, change and annexation of holy Jerusalem, and coercion, imprisonment, and deportation. Any progress in the multilateral negotiations would depend on the achievement of tangible and fundamental progress in the bilateral negotiations and on Israel stopping the construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories and its honoring of the letter and spirit of the Fourth Geneva Convention. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Views Arab Security System

NC0403111592 Cairo MENA in English 0945 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Sharjah, Mar 4 (MENA)—Egyptian Defence Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi said the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and its consequences left their negative impact on the Arab countries at the political, economic, and military levels.

In an interview with AL-KHALIJ newspaper issued here today Gen. Tantawi said that at the political level, the Gulf crisis strengthened Israel's claims that its occupation of Arab territories was not a major source of threat in the region.

Gen. Tantawi said that a logical analysis of the results of the Gulf war which should benefit states in the region including Israel, is that for realising a just and comprehensive peace, the rights of all peoples in the region should be respected, and there should be equilibrium in power among states of the area so that a country enjoying great military capabilities should not overcome neighbouring states.

The Egyptian defence minister asserted the importance of having the security system in the Arab nation planned by the Arabs themselves. Any outsiders could jeopardize security in the area, he said.

Gen. Tantawi, speaking about his own visualisation of the role of the Arab forces in the regional security system, said that the Arab countries should depend on their own armies. They should coordinate among themselves to compensate for any shortage in their military capabilities, he said. Assistance from some friendly countries could be used whenever necessary and only for a limited time, he said.

The Arabs should have an economic integration in all domains because that is the only way to protect the Arab entity, security in the area, and a regional system where no conflicts or grudges exist, he said.

The defense minister also said that any threat to the Arab national security or the Gulf security reflects on the Egyptian security. That necessitates coordination between the Egyptian, Gulf, and Arab security systems, he added.

On the impact of events in the defunct Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe on the region and on the Egyptian military strategy, Gen. Tantawi said there are several effects including the change that may occur on the base for marketing weapons and the subsequent imbalance in military equilibrium. He also referred to the negative results of the leakage of Soviet nuclear expertise and the possible transfer of nuclear and tactical weapons to countries which are capable of paying in return for such armament.

He further pointed out that the role of the Armed Forces is not limited to studying and analysing events which take place in the world, but it also extends to finding solutions and alternatives regarding these events.

Gen. Tantawi asserted that Egypt never regretted its decision to take part in Kuwait liberation war and this decision was adopted out of belief that the Egyptian national security is not only linked to Arab national security, but it is also one of its main supports.

He said that Egypt's decision to participate in defending Saudi Arabia and liberating Kuwait stresses President

Husni Mubarak's visualization of Egypt's Arab role and Egypt's role in safeguarding the region's peace and stability.

He pointed out that the fundamental role played by Egypt during the Cairo Arab summit conference, conferred legitimacy to measures adopted with the approval of most Arab leaders and which in the end led to the liberation of Kuwait.

'Modern Weapons' Required

NC2902101292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Ismailia, 28 Feb (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has affirmed the Egyptian policy of keeping up with the tremendous technological advances in armaments by obtaining the most modern weapons, and by developing those which are less advanced, to narrow the gap between them.

The defense minister noted that Egypt has acquired considerable military experience, which must be conveyed to the new generations and commanders. He pointed out that the October war, the liberation of Kuwait, and other conflicts have helped the armed forces keep up with international military tactics. Add to this the joint exercises and Egypt will have a military doctrine like no other, he added. Gen. Tantawi pointed out that the exercises and drills on minor war tactics are being changed to suit.

He made his remarks today after attending the final stages of Sinai 92, the training exercise performed by a mechanized 2d Field Army formation, involving the main branches of the armed forces. The exercise lasted three days and was attended by the commander of the 2d Field Army, the Training Department chairman, and senior armed forces' commanders. [passage omitted]

Libya

Addition to al-Qadhdhafi Address

LD0303143692

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Al-Qadhdhafi: 'Racist Policy' Behind Disputes," published in the 3 March Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 19.

Page 19, second paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...and vocational bodies. I have come here only to salute the anniversary of the proclamation of the people's authority and the establishment of the Jamahiriyah, and to join the revellers.

From my position as leader of the revolution, I can help decide what the masses should discuss. But the final decision rests with the masses. It is for them to accept or reject any proposal I or anybody else might put forward. Indeed, in the past, I put forward some proposals which were rejected by the People's Congresses.

Furthermore, all presidents throughout the world have the power to dissolve parliaments. This is not true democracy. For a president to be able to dissolve a parliament that was elected by the people is a real weakness of traditional democracy. Indeed, for one person to be able to overthrow the representatives of the people and abolish a house of representatives is not democracy at all.

In Libya, nobody can abolish anything such as this rally in front of me, the General People's Congress. This is because everyone here is a secretary of a people's congress and was elected by it, or by a trade union and the people's committee of the area he represents. Consequently, nobody can annul anyone's membership, or dissolve the congress, unless the people's congresses which created this body decide themselves to change the secretaries, and consequently change these faces and replace them with new faces.

The world has... (providing additional material)

Page 25, column one, second paragraph, last sentence, make read: ...to this basis. [applause]

Bush said that all the options are open before him. He wants to succeed in the election, so he will use his strength against this small state.

These are the morals of elections held at the expense of other peoples. Is this American democracy? To go and strike a people, to destroy us, to satisfy the Americans so that they give you their votes?! This is democracy, this is Western democracy for you! Did you see Western democracy? For the President to win he must strike a small, miserable, and wronged people and turn us into a sacrificial lamb. Where is the sacrificial lamb? Then he picks a target at random: Libya, Iraq, Panama. I do not know who else the finger falls on. After Libya, of course, Syria, Algeria, Sudan, and Yemen will have their turns. In the end, they will present Egypt to the Israelis on a platter of gold. Is it democracy for one to go and choose an unaware, peaceable, and wronged people, deal a blow; and then boast: I am a hero, I hit a small people called the Libyan people. Give me your votes, I won. Democracy, long live democracy.

Is this democracy, O people? This is a farce! See the farce! Regrettably there is now only one who says this. I am the only one who is saying this. All right, they may say, since only al-Qadhdhafi is saying this, this is a discordant, anti-American voice. This is the truth even if they were to hit us with all the bombs they have! What prattle! Do we believe in nonsense after all this time? They do not know Libya. They are ignorant of the fact that the people have authority. They do not know that it is impossible to control Libya and pump its oil. This is impossible. From now on, we tell them this is impossible. If you have designs on Libyan oil, by God, that is impossible. By God, we will set fire to it. [applause] By God, if we know that they have their mind on Libyan oil, we will not leave them a drop of oil. They will not be able to put out the fires as in Kuwait. Libya will remain

without oil until Judgment Day. Let them then have the desert. [applause] Let them understand that if they have designs on oil, their occupation of Libya will take place only after Libyan oil had been absolutely depleted, not like in Kuwait. It will be finished, so they will not find oil in Libya at all.

Here and now we warn them. This is a message we send to America and the West. If the conspiracy is about taking over Libyan oil, we swear to them that by God they will not find a drop of oil in Libya when they occupy it. They will not be able to put out the fires, like they did in Kuwait. No, it will be finished forever. From this day on, we are working on this basis.

As to the Libyan coast, orders have been issued for a flood by the sea. Landing is impossible on the Libyan coast. Here we tell them. We will make the Mediterranean flood the Libyan coast. [applause] Orders have been issued to let the sea flood the Libyan coast. Even if we lost a quarter of the territory, we will let the sea flood the land in order to make an American landing not only difficult, but impossible. This is the point.

Regarding oil, we resolve that if we know that Libya will be taken over by the Americans, there will not be a drop of oil in it. Then the Libyan people will prepare: One, two, three million. They know that if a million or two million Libyans are ready, by God even if a thousand Americas come, they will not succeed in such a project. We tell them now that Libya cannot be a winning card in the American elections. It is a losing card; anyone dealing it will lose. [applause]

They should know... (providing additional material)

Morocco

King Hassan Announces Referendum, Elections

LD0303210592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Speech by King Hassan II in Rabat to the Moroccan people on the 31st anniversary of Throne Day—live]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, and prayers and peace be upon our master, God's Prophet, and his family and companions. [passage omitted]

Beloved people, on the 31st anniversary of our accession to this great throne we are proud of the achievements we have attained together throughout these past three decades, for we have striven to realize them with a common determination. [passage omitted] A serious fundamental role has been entrusted—by the traditions preserved throughout the ages—to the king of Morocco. He has devoted himself to the Constitution for necessities decided by the will of the nation, which made the throne the institution of the institutions and the monarchy the nation's established national system. Bound by this, we have worked for many years to fully carry out the historical constitutional role and have exercised our powers as commander of the faithful, holder of the faith and religion, and vigilant guardian of Morocco's sovereignty and unity. [passage omitted]

These efforts have included the completion of independence and the extending of sovereignty over Morocco's unified territory inside its true borders by recovering the part of our territory which remained usurped. They also included (?preparing) our people and enabling them to enjoy the system of social and economic democracy which is the goal of political democracy, for the latter without the former is just a superficial formality. The efforts also included freeing the national economy from dependency and establishing political liberalism through multiparty politics, which we were among the first in the South to embrace, when the Constitution of 1962 stipulated that the single party [system] be banned. The Constitution of 1970 and that of 1972 stipulated that the single party was illegal.

Beloved people, the years follow one another but are rarely the same, and this is contrary to the celebrated saying that history repeats itself. Indeed, the recent international events were largely only a continuation of previous events, but every decade is characterized by its own facts, in appearence at least. This is what makes every decade not completely isolated from events of the very recent past. The world is changing before our eyes and we are witnessing the emergence of a new political map which has shaken the foundation of alliances which yesterday were stable and firmly established. [passage omitted]

As far as we are concerned, we can only regard the progress made by democracy as positive and also view the resulting principles and values as positive. These principles and values are the basis of the life of freedom- and justice-loving peoples and nations. We do not delude ourselves, however, for we know that democracy, to which everyone aspires and which suits them, must, if we want it to succeed, (?be developed) and exercised through well-considered measures so that it is adapted to real life. Democracy, which could be recorded in laws or constitutions, is first a set of traditions transmitted from generation to generation, and it itself requires a specific way of life. If some try to plant it forcibly and violently in a climate which lacks suitable roots, society will then risk an explosion. There are abundant examples in the human community or of societies which failed to grasp the purpose of this [democracy]. As a result these societies did not succeed in this experiment.

We believe that when there is a disaster one would like to see wisdom prevail and accompany the policy followed toward brethren, allies, and partners. We have recorded with great satisfaction the last cries issued by Algerian officials at the highest level emphasizing the deep commitment of sisterly Algeria to the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] and its determination to do all it can to strengthen and develop the Union. This pleases every citizen in the great Magreban homeland.

The formation of the AMU responds to a deep need in all our peoples which, since their unification in the struggle for liberation, have always longed for the establishment of a homogenous cohesive group to confront the challenges, united on a common word. And today, more than ever before, it behooves us not to disappoint our peoples, and to remain faithful to their legitimate ambitions. The difficulties are many, and the road is still fraught with thorns, and there is still a long way to go, but the will for unity should remain deep rooted in us to overcome the barriers that block our way.

We look forward, faithfully and sincerely, to building the AMU in the shadow of fraternity, solidarity, and faithfulness so that that cohesive structure may be a cohesive structure of mutual support and thus sincerely and truly express the will of our peoples to strengthen the ties of understanding and fraternity among the group, which makes it an impregnable fort and leads to progress and development and stability for all.

By virtue of its geographical position and its ancient history Morocco has witnessed throughout the centuries various trends and numerous civilizations. A country open to the countries surrounding it, Morocco has always played the role of a link between the various continents. Therefore, we must not turn inward or be isolationists. We must continue to follow with interest what is happening around us.

Among our concerns is our Arab world. The Gulf war has opened a deep wound in the Arab body, and the wound has not yet healed as we would wish. Though differences have receded, and this is in the nature of things, disagreement is still entrenched between the parties. We hope that the wisdom which has always characterized relations among the Arabs will enable us all—and this what we sincerely wish—to overcome the misunderstandings so that we can do serious work for the good of the Arab nation and serve its common interests.

What is taking place on the Arab scene might help unify Arab ranks. The negotiations cosponsored by the United States of America and Russia continue between the Arab states and Israel. In addition to the confrontation states directly concerned with the conflict, the majority of the Arab states concerned, including Morocco, are also involved.

The task of them all is not easy. There is no magic wand capable of instantly eliminating the separation which has lasted for several decades. The rights of the Arab world cannot be ignored, however, and it is impossible in any way to ignore Arab rights or to ignore the need to return the Arab territories unlawfully occupied by force.

The international consensus is actually materializing day by day on this issue, which will inevitably be solved in the end despite Israel's obstinacy.

The same international concord can also be noticed on the Palestinian question. The rights of the Palestinian people are not to be nullified by any lapse of time. They are firm and well established, especially the right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on their soil. And this is one of the fundamental objectives of the current negotiations. We may witness the end of the raging regional conflict which has lasted more than half a century. [passage omitted]

It is inevitable that party conflicts, although they are legitimate in any democratic pluralist system, will produce a social atmosphere which is at times shrouded by dark clouds. We are seeking to prevent these clouds from concealing the true picture or what is closest to the reality of our people. This picture will only appear brilliant and clear through free, impartial, and credible elections. We know that this is everyone's wish. This outcome would help everyone to know the position that he occupies in national life and consequently to meticulously gauge his political behavior in light of it [the outcome of the elections]. [passage omitted]

It was and still is our foremost preoccupation and continued concern not to let the gap widen between the development experienced by our people and the institutions which constitute the framework of politics pursued in the political, economic, social, and cultural domains. We are convinced that these institutions, regardless of their usefulness and benefits, cannot and should not remain far apart from every change. Furthermore, our determination continues to maintain our orientation in line with the changes affecting our society and the options that our people are confident about. Stemming from this premise, we have at times reconsidered our institutions to make them appropriate to the development of our people and the level of their prosperity and progress.

Therefore, we now believe that the current circumstances are appropriate for accomplishing what we announced over a year ago concerning a reassessment of the provisions of the present constitution. Therefore, my dear people, a draft of the revised constitution will be put to you through a referendum, for you to decide.

The draft will include in particular a reassessment of the provisions of the present constitution concerning the relationship between the legislative and executive bodies, and provide that the independence of the judiciary will remain guaranteed and an irreversible fact. The provisions to be put to you in the referendum will also include the establishment of a better and more favorable balance between legislative and executive powers in a way that provides greater justice for citizens and more efficiency on the part of the authority and officials, whether they draw their responsibility from representing the people or are those who exercise their responsibility at the level of administration and government.

Therefore, Morocco will enter the new era that awaits it under circumstances that are favorable for success. [passage omitted]

Expresses Optimism on Sahara Issue

LD0303154692 Rabat MAP in English 1402 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Rabat March 3 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco announced this Tuesday future amendments to the Constitution provisions ruling the relationship between the legislative and the executive powers. [passage omitted]

Dealing with the Sahara issue, King Hassan II said "encouraging elements appear at the horizon. The United Nations Organization is making progress in its works. Its delegates are on the spot (in the Sahara)" and "as far as Morocco is concerned, and in a bid not to delay the process, the Kingdom has accepted the latest plan of Mr. Perez de Cuellar despite its shortcomings".

After he recalled that the said plan had been adopted by the Security Council in its Resolution 725, King Hassan II said that during his talks with the new UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali he stressed the need to shelve the Sahara dossier the soonest possible. "We do not have the slightest doubt that the outcome of the referendum will confirm the Sahara as Moroccan territory. The Moroccan identity of the Sahara is unquestionable", the sovereign pointed out.

Of the coming legislative and local elections, the sovereign voiced resolve that these elections be held in due time and "in total transparency, without any ambiguity". He explained that only "free, honest and credible elections" are likely to give a true image of the reality of the Moroccan people and enable each citizen to accurately choose his own political behaviour.

Sudan

Al-Turabi Denies 'Terrorist Elements' Harbored

AB0303194092 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "Focus on Africa" program; interview with Hasan al-Turabi, National Islamic Front secretary general, by correspondent Jehan Alaili; date and place not given]

[Text] On top of its problems with the warring South, the Sudanese Government has another sensitive issue to deal with. Allegations are being made in the United States that Sudan has become a haven for Palestinian terrorists. The ruling military council in Khartoum has strong support from the National Islamic Front which, until the coup in 1989, was the main opposition party in Sudan. Jehan Alaili asked Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of the Front, how he responded to the American allegations that Sudan is harboring terrorists:

[Begin recording] [Al-Turabi] Well, the Americans have been misled into believing that the Sudan may—because of its liberal policy towards Arabs coming to the Sudan—may harbor terrorist elements. But it so happens that all the Palestinians who come to the Sudan either belong to the PLO or to Hamas, and neither of the two groups have had any association with terrorism as defined in the West. These are the two groups who enjoy some presence and very limited presence, only a few hundred. I am sure there are more Palestinians in Egypt, England, and in America than in the Sudan. Anyway, the Sudanese are not disposed towards violence in politics or political assassinations or terrorism as such and they will not allow their country to be used for terrorism. But the Sudan will not be terrorized into closing its door against any Palestinian refugee who is thrown out of his job in the Gulf or out of the occupied territories and who seeks refuge in Sudan. He is welcome.

[Alaili] What about, for example, if the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, in Algiers, if for example they seek refuge in Sudan. Would you welcome them?

[Al-Turabi] Well, I do not think they will seek refuge anywhere. They have the support of the majority and I do not think that the popular majority can be contained for too long. And I think they will persist, and ultimately, I am quite sure that Islam will overcome and will become dominant in Algeria. There is no reason why they should flee Algeria and seek refuge in the Sudan or elsewhere. But any Muslim or non-Muslim who comes to the Sudan as a refugee, by Islamic principle and by social custom in Sudan, and by international good standard of conduct, refugees are always entitled to be given asylum. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi Opposition Leader Briefs Press, Departs

NC2902000092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], left Riyadh last night following a visit of a few days to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Speaking at a news conference prior to his departure, Sayyid al-Hakim said that foreign intervention in Iraq is not [word indistinct]. He added that the Iraqi opposition officials he met with in Riyadh agreed on a common program to confront the defeated regime and to formulate future plans for the country.

Asked if the opposition would welcome foreign intervention to topple Saddam Husayn, Sayyid al-Hakim replied: That would not be realistic. He added, however, that the time is ripe for a change in Iraq. Al-Hakim pointed out that the Iraqi regime is weak and the armed forces are fed up with the policies that led to the nation's destruction. Signs of popular discontent are growing more evident, he noted.

The SAIRI leader said that Saudi King Fahd told him that any tyrant who does not listen to his advisers will fall in the end.

Sayyid al-Hakim disclosed that opposition figures have agreed to hold a general conference before the end of May to agree on the formation of a unified opposition political command and that opposition parties are holding consultations to agree on the time and venue of the conference. Al-Hakim noted that the eight parties of the Kurdistan Front are cooperating with other opposition groups in this respect.

SAIRI—Saddam Must Step Down

LD2902011292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] affirmed that the deliverance of the Iraqi people from the regime of Saddam lies in the joint jihad and struggle of all the sons of Iraq and their armed forces. It emphasized the need for the Iraqi people to shoulder their enormous responsibility in the process of change.

This was stated in the press statement released yesterday [28 February] by the assembly's information center on the occasion of the visit to the Kingdom by Mr. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

In its statement the assembly demanded that the Iraqi opposition try to withdraw legitimacy from the Iraqi regime; support the movement of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi opposition; issue resolutions against the regime; and put Saddam on trial for crimes against his homeland, his people, and all of mankind.

The assembly warned the Iraqi regime not to continue the acts of oppression and persecution and affirmed the need for Saddam to step down in order to avoid more bloodshed in the country. It pointed out preparations by Saddam's regime for launching a treacherous military attack against a number of Iraqi regions at the beginning of March.

It added: "The assembly has issued an appeal to the leaders and heads of Islamic and Arab states concerning this to protect the Iraqi people."

The press statement pointed out that during his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mr. Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim met with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; and a number of senior officials.

Libya's al-Kharrubi Meets King, Departs

LD0203162792 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2335 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 28 Feb (SPA)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolutionary Committee and inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces, departed Riyadh this evening after a visit to the Kingdom. During his visit he delivered a message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from His Excellency Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president [title as received] of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Three Killed in Shoot-Out at Presidential Palace

NC0403124892 Paris AFP in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Sanaa, March 4 (AFP)—Two palace guards and a Yemeni Army officer were killed and one person was seriously wounded in a shoot-out after an argument at the presidential palace here Tuesday, reliable sources disclosed Wednesday.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas were not present at the time of the incident, which coincided with a Presidential Council meeting, they said.

There was no official confirmation Wednesday of the reported shoot-out.

The incident occurred when an unidentified colonel opened fire on a palace employee who had accused him of presenting him with fake documents and was threatening legal action, sources said.

The colonel seriously wounded the employee and then fired at two palace guards who had tried to stop him, killing them, before he was shot dead by a third guard as he left the building, they added.

Strike Shows Disagreement Between Ruling Parties

PM0303165292 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Mar 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Strike Paralyzes Life in 13 Yemeni Governorates"]

[Text] Aden, Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The general strike yesterday brought life to a standstill in at least 13 Yemeni governorates and caused chaos in the other five because employees at government production and service units and public sector factories refused to work for 24 hours. The strike is expected to end at 0700 today.

Domestic and international flights were brought to a halt and workers refused to service planes heading for Yemen. Oil refineries in Aden were closed, as were gas stations, domestic and international communication services, local and foreign commercial banks, all Yemeni ports, and a large number of ministries.

Armed forces troops tried to unload ships at the port of al-Hudaydah, but dock workers prevented them from doing so. Aden's port was closed completely, and some 500 Somali refugees remained on board the vessel Busahbu and received no services.

Unions in Aden issued a newspaper called STRIKE in which they renewed their threat to strike for three successive days in the middle of the month if the government does not respond to their demands to draw up a specific price policy and to grant a cost of living allowance worth 40 percent of their salary.

The paper rejected a government official's statement on new decisions to pay a cost of living allowance worth 25 percent and to provide 47,000 jobs in the state's new budget. It described this as an attempt to abort the strike.

Informed Yemeni sources believe that the strike is an indication of the undeclared disagreement between the two ruling parties—the People's General Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]—and the YSP's attempt to lay the burden of economic problems on the People's Congress in the period preceding elections. Perhaps this reflects the YSP's loss of its labor, popular base due to the inability of the government, in which it participates, to resolve Yemen's problems.

The sources said that the union federation central council is under the YSP. They added that Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who is one of the party's leaders, met with the union federation leaders and made promises which the government did not keep.

It is not yet clear whether the strike is being staged by the YSP against the leadership or whether it is being staged by the labor movement against the YSP itself.

Turkey Given 'Strong Protest' on Border Violations

JN0303192692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1906 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] INA has learned that on 3 March 1992 the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Ankara handed a memorandum from the Foreign Ministry to the Turkish Foreign Ministry. The memorandum includes a strong protest against the repeated, flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, territory, and territorial integrity by the Turkish Air Force on 1 March 1992. This action, the memorandum says, constitutes a violation of international norms and treaties and the Iraqi-Turkish border agreement of 1926, and it greatly harms the ties of good-neighborliness and cooperation between the two Muslim peoples in Iraq and Turkey.

The memorandum asks the concerned Turkish parties to put an immediate end to these violations in order to maintain good-neighbor ties, to avert any negative consequences that the continuation of such actions might entail, and to protect the interests of the two peoples with a view to developing cooperation between them in all fields.

Ramadan 'Vehemently' Rejects UN Resolutions

JN0403085292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Mar 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by Therese Haddad in Baghdad]

[Text] Iraqi First Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has emphasized the importance of mobilizing the Arab masses to defend their existence and destiny and to foil the vile plots and fierce acts of aggression by America and its Zionist allies. He added that there is nothing to prevent the United States from launching a new aggression against Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Ramadan said that Iraq vehemently rejects Security Council Resolutions 706 and 708 regardless of the consequences because the United States does not take into consideration the opinion of the UN team of experts. Ramadan added: Fifty percent of the UN inspection team members work for U.S. intelligence because they even went to a prison to search for a nuclear reactor. Is it possible to have a nuclear reactor in a prison? Ramadan noted that the inspection team's task is not to implement Security Council resolutions but rather to present evidence to prolong the blockade and continue the conspiracy.

On the possibility of pumping oil and lifting the blockade, Ramadan said that the pumping of oil will be resumed very shortly. This will not be done through a clear UN resolution but rather through other means and methods, because certain states find that it is in their interest to restore ties with Iraq.

Answering a question, Ramadan said that the Arab countries, including Iraq, bought weapons from the world for 30 years, and he added that 50 percent of the Arab nation's resources go to buying arms. Ramadan asked: What did these weapons do? Have they enabled us to form a greater power to confront our Israeli enemy, which is still occupying Palestine? Has a single shot reached Israel? Ramadan said that the only weapon which had reached Israel was one built by Iraqi hands.

The Iraqi vice president pointed out that weapons are a requirement for sovereignty, dignity, and the restoration of rights. These can be realized by weapons that we ourselves build and not by weapons given to us by the world.

Ramadan said: Iraq does not view with optimism nor does it largely rely on what others decide because the Mother of Battles has taught us good lessons, the most obvious of which is that the nation's enemies cannot view with fairness anything outside their interests. Ramadan believes that solving internal issues is the basis of everything. He adds: If we do not solve our internal problems and enhance our own capabilities, we will not gain anything from international public opinion or the international powers.

Ramadan said: Everybody now stands against the causes of humanity, justice, and democracy. He adds: At the start of the Mother of Battles we saw all the Western states leading the aggressors.

Ramadan said: France, which we thought was at the forefront of states that support humanitarian issues, continues to offer proposals aimed at tightening the noose on Iraq to multiply the elements of hunger and lead to the death of the Iraqi people. This reflects deep-rooted spite.

Ramadan asked: How can we the Arabs, who have no united and principled stand toward the Palestinian cause, expect a just stand toward our fateful cause from the UN Security Council and the United States?

Ramadan further asked: Why do we blame the Security Council for the blockade against Iraq when we see the Arab League meet and decide to continue this blockade? Ramadan said that the blockade is in the first place an Arab-Israeli one and not an international one.

Ramadan said: The noble strugglers among our people are now certain that the aggression and the moves that preceded it had been premeditated actions against Iraq, which adhered to pride, dignity, the Arab territories, and the Islamic sanctities. This proves that the issue does not concern Iraq alone.

Ramadan also said: Maintaining the blockade despite the pain, sacrifices, and hunger has convinced us of the importance of cooperating with Iraq in unifying the various strata of the Arab people on various cultural levels to resist enemy intentions and Western grudges against the Arab nation and not only against Iraq.

He reiterated that some Arab regimes are determined to see the blockade continue to topple the Iraqi Government. He added: Time is on our side, for every new day unifies our people on common ground to understand the intentions of the enemies. Enthusiasm for reconstruction is evidence of this because it is the only way to steadfastness and confrontation, he said.

Mr. Ramadan accused the "former" Soviet Union of playing a malicious role during the Gulf war, saying that it would not have conspired against Iraq or attacked it had it been considered an ally of one of the two blocs.

He added that the aggression against Iraq is an aggression against the march of development and progress and against the Arab force that was established on the land of the Euphrates and the Tigris. He noted that the enemies of Iraq are watching with annoyance the reconstruction campaign being led by leader President Saddam Husayn.

He described the Mother of Battles as a victory from a material and military perspective because it was a comprehensive confrontation during which the seeds were sown. Now, he said, we have to show steadfastness and challenge so as to reap the fruits later.

Answering a question about the north and why the Iraqi Army keeps away from that area, he said that the rebels live under the umbrella of the foreign enemy, which is still present at the border. Therefore, we have left Kurdish citizens to judge for themselves the conduct of traitors who call themselves the opposition, he said.

The result was positive, he added. Observers who watch what is happening there have begun to discover the reality of the rebels and the degree of their collusion. He added: We have decided to withdraw from a certain part of the north, but we still maintain a presence in Makhmur District and its subdistricts so as to provide an example and a contrast, one of coexistence with other parties without fighting.

Mr. Ramadan added that the rebels in the north represent a negligible percentage because they are linked with America, which directs them as it wishes. He noted that reaching an agreement with them is difficult because they do not want this due to their ties with foreigners.

He observed that the Western media insists that there is opposition in Iraq to the regime. We in the Revolution Command Council [RCC], he said, speak on behalf of the majority because all Iraqis are eager to maintain Iraq's unity and pursue the march against their enemies. He added that the Iraqi street challenges the world to prove that there is opposition to the regime within the ranks of the people.

The Iraqi first vice president expressed satisfaction with the unity of the Iraqi people and their desire to rally around their leadership, which has maintained dignity, honor, and sovereignty.

He asserted, moreover, that the RCC has issued several decisions concerning the return of Iraqis abroad and indicating that Iraq welcomes any Iraqi nationalist who wishes to come back. He said that many of the Iraqis abroad have returned and are now leading honorable lives in their homeland without being subjected to any questioning. Any nationalist can come back, he declared.

Mr. Ramadan added that democracy is based on a commitment to true citizenshi, for there is no democracy for those who do not care for the homeland and those who think that their relationship with foreigners is something natural. Anyone with suspicious relations can have no democracy, for democracy is for nationalists, not traitors, whatever the consequences. He added: The West and America view democracy in our country as a means of enabling their agents to collect information.

The Iraqi first vice president concluded by saying that every honorable Arab is indebted to the martyrs of the Mother of Battles. He called on the Arab nation to engage in a moment of self-scrutiny, because U.S. Administrations, however different, remain the same. America, he said, has no heritage, and all its heritage is stolen from the Arab nation.

He hoped that cohesion would be restored to the Arab homeland and that relations and joint action would be deepened, for it is impossible to not have relations forever and Iraq has a case and is ready to present it to any Arab side.

Ramadan valued Jordan's stands toward Iraq while facing the largest imperialist-Zionist-led aggression. He noted that Jordan's stand has confirmed that the Arab masses will not shake before all forms of treason and aggression.

He said that the RCC gives priority to its relations with Jordan, for Jordan's stand has been a great lesson of the Mother of Battles. Jordan has given much in spite of its difficult circumstances, he added.

Rejects U.S. 'Threats,' 'Lies'

JN0203095792 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Mar 92 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ahmad al-Dabbas from Tirbil]

[Text] Iraqi First Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said: We in Iraq, both the people and the leadership, are very appreciative and proud of the honorable Jordanian pan-Arab stand, led by His Majesty King Husayn. We will always remember with gratitude the honorable stand of Jordan, its leadership and people, alongide Iraq.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B at a ceremony marking the opening of Iraq's western border gate complex at Tirbil, on the Iraqi-Jordanian border, he added: Jordan's practical stand alongside Iraq in its confrontation with the foreign enemy was a true expression of the Arab nation's conscience and spirit. All the Jordanian Arab people, including elderly people, women, children, and youths, have contributed to backing Iraq. The true

Jordanian Arab people have even devised various formulas and means to confirm the fraternal bonds and pan-Arab participation despite all the difficult circumstances that Jordan is facing and despite its exposure to the siege. This Jordanian stand is a good example for the Arab nation, and it confirms the pan-Arab links and fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Iraqi people as well as the sons of the Arab nation. Such a spirit represents the nation's power and heralds our victory over the enemies and the abortion of all plots which they are concocting against the nation and its future and existence.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are two neighborly Arab countries linked by integration and coordination. Therefore, Jordan is being affected by the circumstances in Iraq and is being besieged. It is suffering from difficult economic circumstances. Despite this, we find that the Jordanian citizen rushes to support Iraq even more than before. This is the spirit and essence of the nation.

Ramadan added: On this occasion I extend my sincere greetings to the Jordanian Army on the anniversary of the Arabization of its command because this army is a brave arab army in essence, substance, and power. The Jordanian Army has never brandished a weapon against an Arab brother. Indeed, it has always stood alongside the Arab brothers in all their confrontations against the nation's enemies. It is the army that stands in the longest line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy in defense of the Arab nation.

As for the possible emergence of signs that the embargo imposed on Iraq would be eased under the new international circumstances and facts, Ramadan said: The fact is clear. In light of the hostile U.S. intentions and premeditated plans, there are no positive signs in this regard. Intentions are still wicked, and both the United States and Zionism continue to pursue their attempts to undermine Iraq's sovereignty following the failure of the barbaric act of aggression to achieve its objectives. The stronger Iraq grows and the more it sticks to its position, however, the greater Arab faith becomes and the greater are actions to confront the Zionist-U.S. imperialist plot and to foil all its plans and objectives.

As for the U.S. threats and claims concerning the existence of weapons of destruction that should be destroyed, Ramadan said: Iraq is clear in its position. What the United States and its colonialist allies are claiming in this regard are only lies. Therefore, we reject this U.S. blackmail, and we reject all that might undermine Iraq's sovereignty and independent decisions.

He added: Our reply to these false claims and this plot, which is a link in the chain of the continuous aggression, was clearly communicated to the whole world through the the Foreign Ministry's official spokesman. We shall soon send an official delegation to the United Nations to explain what Iraq did in order to abide by the Security Council resolutions. This escalation of the tone of aggression is due to the exposure of the facts and dimensions of the 30-state aggression against Iraq led by the United States and Zionism. Whenever a ray of hope appears in the international arena on the possibility of easing the siege imposed on Iraq—after it has fulfilled its obligations according to the Security Council resolutions—the United States hastens to fabricate falsehoods and claims to justify the continuing aggression. This, however, does not worry us, for our practical reply is our steadfastness and continued adherence to our clear principles.

Taha Yasin Ramadan added: It has become clear one year after the barbaric 30-state aggression that the aims of the aggression have not been achieved. The dimensions of the imperialist Zionist-U.S. plot have become clear in both features and chapters. The Arab people have become aware of this fact. We realize that the sons of the Arab nation are with Iraq in heart and mind. They are aware of the plot and its aims and are aware that this aggression was not targeting Iraq but rather the entire Arab nation.

He said that Iraq's huge accomplishments in the battle of reconstruction are cogent, living proof of the Iraqi people's ability to confront aggression and to foil plots and schemes. The Iraqi accomplishments embody the high spirit of the entire Arab nation and its insistence on mastering science, knowledge, and technology. The Iraqi people's ability to rebuild Iraq has surprised all enemies. Now that a year has passed since the start of aggression we are more optimistic and confident about the future and this great nation. What the Arab masses are now expressing transcends the state of submission and silence. This is the secret behind the greatness of the Iraqis, their ability to hold out, and their insistence on surviving and building Iraq. Frankly speaking, the scope of accomplishment and creativity in Iraq is now better than it was before the aggression and even a few years ago.

Iraqi First Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan inaugurated the border complex linking Jordan with Iraq at Tirbil in the presence of Walid al-Sa'd al-Batayinah, Jordanian ambassador to Iraq; the embassy staff; Mahmud al-Sari, the governor of al-Mafraq; Lieutenant Colonel Fakhri Iskandar al-Dawud, commander of the Jordanian-Iraqi border post; and a number of senior Iraqi officials.

The new border complex was built in only three months. Its total area amounts to more than 10,000 square meters and includes all utilities.

IAEA Notes Aid Given to UN Inspection Teams

JN0303200992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has praised the efforts being made by Iraq to facilitate the mission of the teams of experts sent by the IAEA to Iraq. In a new report to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, the IAEA says that the Iraqi Government is clearly cooperating with the UN inspection teams.

BBC radio's correspondent in the United Nations notes that the new IAEA report came as a surprise for it contradicts the impression recently given about Iraq's lack of cooperation with the IAEA delegation that visited the country in mid-February.

The report adds that Iraq has seriously cooperated to facilitate the experts' mission and that it is willing to implement plans which will help effect the long-term supervision of its programs.

'Abd-al-Ghafur Urges Support at Security Council

JN0403120592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Mar (INA)—The Foreign Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command has called on political parties, popular federations, and trade unions operating in the Security Council member states to deal in an open-minded, fair, and objective manner with the documented facts and presentations to be made by the Iraqi delegation, led by the deputy prime minister, to the Security Council on 11 March.

In a letter he addressed to the political parties, popular federations, and trade unions operating in the Security Council member states, 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and the official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, said that supporting Iraq is to back right and rebut the falsehood being propagated by the United States and its allies to maintain the unjust economic blockade against the steadfast Iraqi people.

The Foreign Relations Bureau appealed to brotherly and friendly parties to do their utmost to urge their countries' Security Council representatives to respond to the fair position of Arab and Muslim Iraq in the face of the pressures, blackmail, and hegemony of old and new colonialists who entertain ambitions on the bounties of the developing world to enslave and humiliate its nations and implement imperialist and Zionist schemes.

In the letter, which he sent to parties in Morocco, India, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, the PRC, Venezuela, Ecuador, Russia, Japan, Belgium, Hungary, and Austria, the Ba'th Party Regional Command member asserted that the U.S. Administration has once again resorted to the language of threats and blackmail and is beating the drums of military aggression, in harmony and coordination with its allies Britain and France. This is because on 25 February the U.S. representative took advantage of his monthly chairmanship of the Security Council to issue a statement rife with lies and falsehoods claiming that Iraq has not fully complied with Security Council Resolution 687, issued on 3 April 1991, and that Iraq has not met its commitments as stipulated by that resolution.

He added that Iraq has for ten months met its commitments under Resolution 687. Iraq has cooperated honestly with UN inspection teams which have been visiting it to implement the paragraphs of Resolution 687. Iraq has moreover facilitated the activity of these missions, their transportation, immunity, care, and their freedom to conduct surprise searches of any place in the country in spite of the attempts by some members of these teams to spy and to serve U.S. political objectives that have nothing to do with Resolution 687.

He added: Is there any excuse left to maintain the blockade imposed on Iraq since 8 August 1990 under Resolution 661 now that all justifications have been removed and that international public opinion has stepped up its request to lift the blockade in light of the disastrous and inhuman conditions which the Iraqi people are suffering? Consider also the attempts of the unbiased states at the Security Council to expand the list of materials that Iraq can import, other than food and medicine, which are permitted by Resolution 687. The United States, however, has hurried to launch a disinformation campaign to besmirch Iraq's image and has deliberately ignored the comprehensive, detailed, factual report enclosed with the letter sent by Iraq's foreign minister to the president and members of the Security Council on 24 January 1992.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur explained further that the Security Council statement, which unjustifiably preceded the visit to New York of the Iraqi delegation headed by the deputy prime minister—a visit aimed at explaining the truth about the commitments which Iraq has abided by under Resolution 687—is tendentious, politically vindictive, and ignores objective facts that are stated in the factual report enclosed with the letter of the Iraqi foreign minister, to maintain the blockade on our people and harm them.

He added that when the Security Council was expected to reward Iraq's commitment to its obligations under Resolution 687 by lifting the blockade, or at least easing it, the Security Council was subjected to U.S. and Western blackmail and remained silent on the falsehoods of the U.S. representative, who was the president of the council for last month.

He went on to say that Iraq has promised to discuss all these facts with the Security Council during the upcoming visit of its delegation and to explain its position on Resolutions 707 and 715. The delegation will also differentiate between the U.S. plan to destroy all industrial facilities and the bases of Iraq's progress, as determined by Baker, and the requirements of Resolution 687 concerning only the weapons of mass destruction stipulated in Paragraph C.

The Regional Command member and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau explained furthermore that Iraq's right to life and progress in all fields is guaranteed by the UN Charter, the International Convention on Political and Economic Rights, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. This, he said, completely contradicts the twisted interpretations by the United States, Britain, and France of Security Council

resolutions on Iraq. These interpretations, he stated, are part of the continued plotting and aggression against the Iraqi people, their nationalist and free regime, and their struggling leadership led by leader President Saddam Husayn.

Ahmad Husayn Discusses Regional Foreign Policy

JN2802204892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has stated that what the United States fears most is that Iraq's voice will be loudly and clearly heard in international fora because Iraq's arguments are always substantiated with conclusive evidence concerning U.S. crimes against the people and mankind.

In an interview carried on "The File" program broadcast by Baghdad television tonight the minister said that from the premise of this reality the United States has done everything in its power to keep Iraq's voice from being heard at international fora.

The foreign minister affirmed that Iraq's foreign policy is based on the firm constants in which Iraq believes, in terms of the attainment of national, pan-Arab, and humane objectives, and the peoples' right to determine their fate in accordance with their free and independent will, far from any form of hegemony, tyranny, and interference in domestic affairs and the curtailment of national sovereignty—forms that the United States exercises not only against countries but also against international bodies that are supposed to carry out their work on the premise of international bases, norms, and conventions.

The foreign minister emphasized the subservience of the United Nations, specifically the Security Council, to U.S. hegemony, influence, and domination. This has made the United States commit many crimes under the pretext and cover of international legitimacy.

Ahmad Husayn said that the U.S. plans to conspire against Iraq and to try to destroy it were not conceived during the unjust 30-country aggression but rather during the Iraq-Iran war, specifically in 1986, when Iran occupied al-Faw.

The foreign minister detailed the complete cooperation and coordination between the United States and Iran during the occupation of al-Faw. At that time the United States supplied Iran with sophisticated and advanced weapons. This shows that U.S.-Iranian relations are not what they appear to be. This was followed by the well-known Irangate scandal. At the same time that al-Faw was occupied, the world was surprised to witness a drop in oil prices brought about by the dangerous oil policies of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, who produced an oil glut on the world market leading to a drop in oil prices.

The minister said that after the liberation of al-Faw in a splendid military battle that showed the great and insightful genius of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, who commanded that battle, it became clear that Iraq had turned into a vanguard force. This was manifested clearly, the minister noted, when Iran agreed in 1988, after a series of military defeats, to a cease-fire, thus bringing to an end the eight-year war.

Ahmad Husayn added: By the time that the Iraq-Iran war came to an end, the features of the U.S. aggression against Iraq became clearer, for the regimes of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], which are subservient to Washington, persisted with their oil policies which were primarily aimed at destroying Iraq's economic capabilities. These regimes, he maintained, continued to flood the world oil market with their crude, thereby causing a decline in oil prices despite Iraq's warnings about the dangers posed by the U.S. conduct in the region and also by the dangerous policies pursued by the Kuwaiti and UAE rulers and regimes. These cautions included particularly the warning that Iraq gave in the speech that leader President Saddam Husayn delivered at the 1990 Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman, and also in remarks he made at the Baghdad summit held the same year. At these two summits the president explained the hostile U.S. conduct in the region, as well as the oil policies pursued by some Arabian Gulf states such as Kuwait and the UAE.

The foreign minister went on to say: The Kuwaiti and UAE rulers advanced some excuses to justify their pursuit of a dangerous policy, but by doing so they were in fact revealing their insincerity and how far they had sunk in the quagmire of treason on behalf of the United States.

Ahmad Husayn pointed out that this Kuwaiti policy was not dictated by a need for revenue. He noted, however, that the Kuwaiti rulers were instruments used to implement the U.S. scheme, which aimed to crush Iraq and swallow up the region because it is rich in oil. Then, he added, these instruments were joined by the Egyptian regime and the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques in an open manner which was unprecedented. These parties, he maintained, nurtured their conspiracy against Iraq because it was particularly committed to pan-Arab causes, the foremost ones being the Palestine question, issues of pan-Arab security, and protecting Arab oil resources.

The foreign minister emphasized that the United States has since, and even before the events of August 1990, embarked on a major campaign of disinformation and lies against Iraq. For instance, it has contended that the iniquitous war that it mounted against Iraq was a clean one. This is, however, a lie, for by definition a clean war involves confrontation between military armies and should have nothing to do with civilian targets, which should be spared. But their treacherous aggression targeted all civilian and services installations in Iraq which

served no military functions whatsoever. Another case in point was the immoral and less than civil tone which characterized Bush's rhetoric against Iraq in international fora and at UN General Assembly sessions, let alone its double-standard approach to international affairs and issues.

His excellency the minister said that out of 583 resolutions that the United Nations passed on the Palestinian issue, the United States voted against 283 of them. Likewise, the United States has vetoed 89 out of 98 draft resolutions that came before the UN Security Council. In contrast, on 15 August 1991—in the span of just one day—three resolutions were passed against Iraq, thereby furnishing fresh evidence of U.S. domination and control over the world body and the Security Council. To that end it has deployed all manner of inducements, bribes, and forms of intimidation. It is pursuing relentless aggression against Iraq under various guises, with the continued economic sanctions being the ugliest of these.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn cited statements by U.S. officials to illustrate its aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation, as well as its designs on their oil and resources.

Kurds' Barzani Denounces Turkish Raids

JN0303205092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] London radio has broadcast a detailed report on the Turkish air raid against the populated areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. The radio concluded its report by saying: Leader of the Kurds Mas'ud Barzani has asked the representative of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Ankara to lodge a protest with the Turkish Government against the air attack launched by Turkish forces on villages and areas in Kurdistan.

Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani has affirmed to international news agencies and newspapers that many Iraqi Kurdish civilian were wounded. He vehemently denounced the air raids against the inhabitants of Kurdish villages whose reconstruction had been completed only a few months ago. This reconstruction took place thanks to humanitarian assistance from international organizations which are seeking to rebuild Kurdistan and which desire its dispersed inhabitants to regain their stability.

Fahd Commits 'Treason' by Hosting Opposition Talks

JN2802140692 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 28, INA—Two Iraqi newspapers today confirmed that the people of Iraq would never forget the treason of the Saudi ruler Fahd, neither would they forgive his crimes, stressing their determination to make him pay with a high price for all the crimes he had committed against Iraq and the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said that Fahd, who brought the U.S.-Atlantic invasion troops into the Arab land, had gone far in his treason by turning the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] into a base for aggression and conspiracy against Iraq, violating by that all Arab and Islamic principles.

The daily found it quite natural that the Saudi ruler had made his capital a haven for the traitors and agents who had long been docile instruments obeying the will of the enemies of people and nation.

Commenting on Fahd's hosting of a meeting for the so-called Iraqi opposition leaders in Riyadh, the paper said this meeting, with a view to the identity of those taking part, was not a surprise to the Iraqis or the Arabs, not only because traitors usually met within the frame of the roles assigned to them, but also because they were carrying out the orders of their master Bush.

AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, said the role of Trojan horse Fahd played was not enough to quench his thirst for revenge, neither were the rivers of blood of Iraqi and Arab martyrs in the Mother of Battles.

The paper stressed that organizing a meeting in Riyadh for a group of agents and traitors who received instructions from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the British Foreign Office represented the surest evidence for the bankruptcy of Fahd's regime.

It pointed out that Iraq's steadfastness in the Mother of Battles had motivated Bush, Major, Mitterrand and their agent Fahd to seek all crooked conspiratorial routes against Iraq, especially after they had realized the deep implications the Mother of Battles had left on the Arab and Muslim masses and the cracks it had caused in the structures of the treacherous and reactionary regimes.

Paper Warns Iran Against Reviving 'Baghdad Pact'

JN2902145892 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 24 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial column: "Opinion"]

[Text] The Iranian regime, which raises false slogans against U.S. tyranny, Zionism, and foreign domination, is now assuming the role of the godfather in reviving the defunct Baghdad Pact and breathing life into it under the guise of the "Economic Cooperation Organization."

A summit conference was recently held in Tehran bringing together Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and some republics which seceded from the former Soviet Union. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian regime's president, did not try to conceal his hopes of seeing this "economic organization" turn into a "military alliance" reminiscent of the role that the Baghdad Pact played in implementing colonialist projects in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf region, and in preventing the establishment of nationalist governments which believe in the cause of the

masses and adopt anticolonialist policies opposed to the reactionary forces connected with foreign interests and monopolist companies.

Thus, wittingly or unwittingly, Hashemi-Rafsanjani divulged the true nature of his intentions and suspect plans, as well as the true colors of the Iranian regime's role within the scenario of the "new world order" that the United States is endeavoring to apply and implement.

Eager to jump on the bandwagon of allegiance to Washington, and fearing that other hireling rulers might outrun him and assume the main role of reviving the Baghdad Pact, Hashemi-Rafsanjani took the initiative in calling the heads of the concerned states to Tehran to join hands and establish a reactionary military axis whose primary task is to tighten the noose around nationalist regimes, foment sectarian and racial troubles, and create problems and hinder any sincere effort to keep the region and the Arabian Gulf free from all shackles, reactionary alliances, and humiliating and reactionary security and military agreements such as the ones concluded by the Saudi rulers and the rulers imposed on Kuwait.

If Hashemi-Rafsanjani is ignorant of recent history, we may just remind him of the fate of the founders of the Baghdad Pact. We ask him to deduce useful lessons before reviving the old alliance. This is just a reminder.

Popularity of Saddam 'Open Message' to Enemies

JN0303121992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Mar (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper affirms that the fact that the Iraqi masses of al-Basrah and al-'Amarah took to the streets to greet leader President Saddam Husayn the day before yesterday was an open message from the Iraqi people to Bush, all U.S. and Zionist lackeys, and servile agents inside and outside the Arab region.

In an article published today the paper adds: With this message our great people asserted that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is the Iraqi people, that the Iraqi people are Saddam Husayn, and that no power on earth can separate the two because they have a common destiny.

The paper goes on to say: Our people also said with this message that all the plots that were carried out against great Iraq as well as those that are being hatched can never undermine the affection between them and their beloved leader, and that all forms of direct and indirect aggression and all types of overt and covert weapons can never undermine Iraq, its national unity, and its independent political course.

In concluding this article the paper says: Let them die of their spite, for leader Saddam Husayn will remain strong with his people. Similarly, the Iraqi people will remain strong with leader Saddam Husayn. As for the love between them, it will continue to produce gifts and prosperity for our beloved Iraq and our glorious Arab nation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The words "Bush, Bush, listen well, we all love Saddam Husayn" serve as the prick of a needle and as an appeal. They are a prick and an appeal not only to the U.S. president but also to all failures and traitors who sold their consciences.

Yes, Iraqis love Saddam Husayn.

Article Assesses Winners, Losers in Likud Vote

TA0303161992 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 Mar 92 pp 10, 11

[Article by Moti Bassok: "The Deal, the Betrayal, and the Maneuver"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A survey of the list of personalities who make up the first two septets in the Likud list of Knesset candidates (based on the order of their election) can be very interesting.

Moshe Arens—Contrary to his image as being compliant, a loser, and a coward, this time he fought bitterly and won the first slot in the first septet. Taking into account the fact that this is the last time Yitzhaq Shamir will head the Likud in an election, Arens' victory is especially important for the struggle over the inheritance. Arens has also positioned himself very well to be the one who distributes the ministries in the next government, whether the Likud forms it or is a partner in a Labor government headed by Rabin. In a Likud government, he will probably demand and receive the title of vice prime minister and choose between the two ministries he had in the previous two governments: foreign and defense.

Ari'el Sharon—He also turned out to be one of the big victors in the septets and, before that, in the 50-member panel. As usual, he only looks out for himself and, therefore, in the next Knesset, he will not bring along Knesset members [MK's] from his camp. As somebody who wanted to be chief of staff and never made it, he knows that his chances of being No. 1 in the Likud are almost nil. Therefore, his running for second place and his victory are an achievement. Under certain circumstances, he could be defense minister in the next government, and that is what he aspires to.

David Levi—On the personal level, he is the big loser among the Likud leadership. He was dealt a tough blow in the Likud panel, ranking only 18th, and in the septets, where he came in third, well after his two chief rivals. It is very doubtful that he will return to the Foreign Ministry after the general elections. Levi, it was shown, has too many rivals within his own Knesset faction. When the "conspiracy" against him was being implemented, only two in the whole large Shamir-Arens camp—Beni Begin and Dan Meridor—came out in opposition, and that was mainly due to their opposition to Ari'el Sharon. Shitrit, Magen, and Nisim, who later joined Levi, did not utter a sound during the "conspiracy."

Moshe Qatzav—He has big plans for the future, and his entire life is devoted to that purpose. The state comptroller has already called him a master of political appointments. Even after that sharp rebuke, Qatzav did not restrain himself. In fact, just the opposite is true, and the results were obvious to the entire Likud: first place on the panel; fourth in the septets. According to the ranking, he advanced only on the panel—from second to first place—but in actual fact he strengthened his position in the Likud. He will apparently head the Likud election campaign in the coming elections and has already announced that in the next government, the Treasury "would suit him fine." The Shamir-Arens camp is building him up as the answer to David Levi and to all those in the Likud and outside it who say that the Sephardim only get secondary positions in the Likud. Qatzav has extremely hawkish political positions.

Binyamin Netanyahu—first place in the panel for the previous elections and second place this time—retained his place as fifth in the first septet. However, while four years ago he landed in Israel as something close to a national hero, having done an outstanding job as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, his achievement this time is far more impressive. Over the past four years his colleagues in the Likud—both within and outside the government—tried to eat away at his stature, sometimes by hitting below the belt, but it turns out that they failed. His independent stance on the issue of the direct election of the prime minister, which runs counter to the Likud position, did not hurt him despite expectations to the contrary, and his clash with David Levi and his ouster from the Foreign Ministry did not cost him any points—perhaps just the opposite. There is no doubt that Netanyahu, after having served as a deputy minister in the current government, will demand and apparently receive a ministerial position in the next government—probably at David Magen's expense—if the Likud forms it. His special relationship with Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens will be to his advantage.

Binyamin Begin—Toward his second term in the Knesset, Begin moved up one slot in the first septet: from seventh to sixth. In fact, he is the only MK included in the first septet. Begin has already announced that he will run for leadership of the party after Shamir retires as prime minister.

Roni Milo—Despite his young age (43), he has been an MK for 15 years. Milo made a tremendous leap forward, both in the panel and in the septets. Furthermore, his subcamp within the Shamir-Arens camp (Limor Livnat is one of his band) maneuvered extraordinarily well in the various struggles. Milo ousted David Magen (of the Shamir-Arens camp) from the first septet and, de facto, from that camp. He strengthened his position in the Likud's second echelon, especially in view of the fact that his rivals, Ehud Olmert and Dan Meridor, were ranked below him. Milo is one of the few in the Shamir-Arens camp who knew how to maintain good relations with Levi and Sharon throughout the years.

Moshe Nisim—His story is The Story of the septets. Minister of industry and trade, he is a straight and fair politician who likes to work discreetly, far from the cameras. As opposed to almost all of his colleagues, he keeps his word. Nisim built his relations with the Likud's upper echelon on mutual trust, and he had an especially good relationship with Prime Minister Shamir. While the media spoke of Dan Meridor as the prime minister's

closest confidant, Shamir's inner circle spoke of Nisim. As the son of one of Israel's chief Sephardic rabbis, the minister of industry and trade brought the ultra-Orthodox into a coalition with Shamir on several occasions. He also placed the Liberals at the Likud's doorstep following Moda'i's various antics. Throughout the years, Nisim systematically worked at creating his own strong camp within the Likud. He is estimated to have over 200 followers—a not insignificant number. Although he denies it, he has always had his own little dream: to reach the top position in the political network—that of prime minister. He was dealt a very strong blow in the 50-member panel, where he placed 25th. Nisim undoubtedly realized that the camp that was supposed to back him—the Shamir-Arens camp—gave him only lukewarm support. From his point of view and from that of the Liberals, the only way to have corrected this was by voting him in on the first septet. And this did not happen. The Shamir-Arens camp did place him fourth on its recommended list, but did not clear the arena for him, mainly because Roni Milo refused to pass up a slot in the first septet. From my reading of Nisim, his decision to run in the second septet outside the framework of the Shamir-Arens camp shows a very serious rift—primarily between him and Shamir, but no less so between him and the Shamir-Arens camp. This may also have a serious impact on the future of the Likud, although at the moment the Liberals —both within and outside the Likud—have hit rock bottom.

Dov Shilansky—It is a pity that the Likud, which speaks so loftily about honor, glory, and statesmanship, did not see fit to reserve a slot on its list for the Knesset speaker, as does every democratic country in the world. It is likewise a pity that Shilansky, the Knesset's most political speaker ever, saw fit to sneak into his election campaign a condemnation of Police Commissioner Terner over the latter's remarks against Ze'evi, the fact-disclosing MK.

Me'ir Shitrit—was a successful and popular MK until the 12th Knesset, at which time he became impatient and decided to take a shortcut via the Jewish Agency. Shitrit gave up an additional term as MK in favor of the job of the Jewish Agency treasurer. To his chagrin, he found out that the step was a grave mistake: No one heard about him any more, and friends and people his age at the Knesset (Qatzav, Milo, Magen, Olmert, Meridor) were making a government career while he was forgotten, relegated to the margins. In the next government, he announced, he wants to be the education minister. His chances to see his desire materialize—in any circumstances and in every constellation—are nil.

Eliyahu Ben-Elisar—His years-long dream to be a cabinet minister in the next government (if it is formed by the Likud) will come true only if Levi manages to force Shamir to include members of his camp in his cabinet.

Ehud Olmert—the fifth slot in the second septet, almost the same as his slot in the panel (No. 11); he could not have expected a better slot.

Dan Tikhon—The Liberal who made all the way with Levi (against the Nisim camp) has proven that sometimes it pays to work as he has done in the Knesset Finance Committee: very methodically, knowledgeably, and occasionally even courageously.

David Magen—The last in the second septet, he did extremely well considering the fact that he had abandoned the Shamir-Arens camp, considering the fact that the camp took out "a contract" on him, and considering the fact that he ran for the second septet without the major camps's sponsorship. At the same time, his decision to abandon the Shamir-Arens camp because of passing anger over his noninclusion in the first septet was an unfortunate mistake. In his case, Shamir will be full of vengeance and wrath. Also, Magen has lost the job of the Likud elections headquarters chairman, and he will almost certainly not be a minister in the next government.

Egyptian Military Delegation Holds Meetings

TA0303104392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 92 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An Egyptian military delegation headed by a brigadier general arrived in Israel for talks with the Israeli military committee chaired by Brig. Gen. Havim Yifrah. The meeting is one of a series of routine meetings held by the two countries.

The Egyptian delegation is composed of several army officers and government officials and is supposed to stay in Israel for three or four days. Military sources told HA'ARETZ that the Egyptian delegation would hold meetings with the Foreign Ministry, the defense establishment, and the Israeli military committee on various violations of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Most of the violations involve border crossings by aircraft and motor vehicles, and both countries have complaints on these issues.

Nevertheless, a senior military source asserted that the Egyptians have meticulously observed the peace treaty to the letter and that the occasional violations of the agreement are minor ones.

MK Says Education Funding Higher in Settlements

TA0403094792 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 92 p 24

[Report by Ruti Zuta]

[Text] Ministry of Education and Culture allocations for education in the settlements are much higher than for similar activities in Israel, David Zucker, the Citizens Rights Movement Knesset Member [MK], claimed yesterday, following an investigation he conducted into the ministry's financial allocations to local authorities between April and December 1991.

Zucker found that while the state pays 720 shekels per student for travel to and from school in the Gush 'Etzyon Regional Council, it hands out only 255 shekels per student in the 'Emeq Hefer Regional Council, which covers a similar area and similar distances.

The highest travel funding is in the Har Hevron Regional Council, where the state paid 3,721 shekels for each pupil. That is three times higher than the state allocation for a similar regional council inside Israel, such as Merom Hagalil, where it is only 1,309 shekels per pupil.

Zucker found that in direct budgetary allocations for local authorities, 4,910 shekels are earmarked for each pupil in the Har Hevron Regional Council, 2.5 times more than for Merom Hagalil, where each receives 2,091 shekels.

The Education and Culture Ministry said in reply that the data presented by Zucker are unofficial and will be checked. The comparisons are political and not professional, and Zucker is comparing apples and oranges, the ministry said. The ministry does not allocate funds for each student but makes an overall allocation based on the same rules on both sides of the Green Line.

Bi'r Zayt University Closed for Two More Months

TA2902161992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea and Samaria has extended by another two months the order closing Bi'r Zayt University, which was due to end tomorrow. The university will remain closed until the beginning of May. The terms for its reopening will be examined in the intervening period in discussions between the defense establishment, the university's directors, and public dignitaries in the Ramallah area. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that this is the only university in the territories that is closed this year.

Spokesman Reacts to Attack on Turkish Synagogue

TA0203175692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] Israel expressed confidence tonight that the Turkish Government would do everything necessary to capture the terrorists who attacked the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul and that it would put them on trial as soon as possible. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Israel views the attacks with gravity. He expressed solidarity with the Jewish community in Istanbul and wished the wounded man a speedy recovery.

King Urges Understanding for Gulf 'Returnees'

JN0303205892 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] His majesty the king today said that life should be facilitated and made easier to returnees from the Gulf region.

In a message addressed to the prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the king said conditions of the returnees should find more understanding, especially those with limited incomes and savings, who are unable to cope with various needs such as customs duties charged on their cars. The king's message cited returnees who own one car. His majesty said exemption of those cars from the customs duties or asking them to pay such duties by installments over a longer period of time would help many of them begin a new life.

His majesty the king said he has been following closely the conditions and sufferings of those who left or were forced to leave their homes and businesses. The king said now that they have been deprived of their rights and living, they should be welcomed in this country. The king said their case should be thoroughly studied so that their experiences contribute to the country's development activity and add to its various achievements.

King Husayn Congratulates Saudi Arabia's Fahd

JN0203073992 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today sent a cable to his brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, congratulating him on the approach of the holy month of Ramadan and on the 10th anniversary of his assumption of power. The following is the text of the cable:

Brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh:

As our Islamic nation is preparing to welcome the holy month of Ramadan, in which the Koran was sent down as a guide for mankind and as a clear sign for guidance and judgment, and as the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is celebrating the 10th anniversary of your assumption of power, it is my pleasure to send, my brother, on these two dear occasions, the sincerest congratulations and warmest wishes to your majesty and to your Muslim Arab people, beseeching God the Almighty to grant you continued good health, happiness, and success in all that pleases Him. God hears and responds to prayers.

Editorial Says U.S. 'Key to Peace and War'

JN0303135092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 92 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "The Key to Peace and the Key to War"]

[Text] Before the Soviet Union collapsed and became a group of small states, unable to do or face anything, we and the entire world were aware that the United States was the key to peace and war in our region, and that it can establish security and stability in this region or keep it haunted by fear, terror, and hatred.

This awareness is testimony in favor of the United States and its ability, as well as against it and against its ability. Indeed, the tragic collapse of the Soviet Union and Washington's monopoly on international authority have placed a political, ethical, humanitarian, and cultural responsibility on the shoulders of the United States. The position of peoples and nations, as well as the verdict of generations and history hinge on the ability of the U.S. Administration—any administration—to shoulder this responsibility.

Therefore, we have never viewed the United States as merely an enormous power, because real respect goes to the power that expels war and terror, and both establishes and maintains peace. We have always had a problem with the United States. We want U.S. ethical and humanitarian distinction that rises to the level of the U.S. political, military, and scientific distinction. This will enable the American nation to enter the bright pages of human history.

Israel cannot mount an aggression and keep its military gains forever. It also cannot indefinitely continue its opposition to international legitimacy and contempt of its principles and resolutions. Finally, we believe that it is time for the U.S. position to be clearly announced, not for the sake of the Arabs or Israelis, but for the sake of the values and principles cherished by the Americans. This is especially true since their politicians waged wars in the so-called defense of these values and principles.

In a few days' time, His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with President George Bush and a number of officials in his administration. These talks will deal with just peace and international legitimacy. What we hope for—and Jordanians, like all other Arabs, follow all that Washington says about peace, human rights, and international legitimacy—is to hear what we wished to hear for decades about our right and the right of our generation to reassurance, knowledge, bread, progress, and modernization, as well as our right and the right of our generation to lay down the rifles and spears forever.

President Bush will thus have an opportunity to take his place among those who make peace and provide the world with stability, and the United States will have an opportunity to be the big heart and conscious mind, and not merely the big stick.

Minister: Talks With Paris Club 'Positive'

JN0203150392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Mar 92 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman—PETRA—Planning Minister Dr. Ziyad Fariz has described the outcome of the talks a Jordanian

delegation held with representatives of Western creditor nations in the Paris Club as positive.

Upon his return from Paris last night, after taking part in talks held there, he told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY-PETRA that Jordan reached full agreement with the Paris Club group of nations on rescheduling the foreign debts and the interest accruing from 1991 to mid-1993.

Dr. Fariz added that the creditor nations' representatives had spoken in highly appreciative terms about Jordan's efforts to cope with the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and stressed their support for these efforts and expressed their appreciation for Jordan's economic performance.

The Jordanian delegation will complete talks in London today, Monday, with representatives of the creditor commercial establishments to reschedule commercial debts.

Fourteen creditor nations took part in the Paris talks.

The Jordanian delegation to the Paris talks is due to return to Amman by the end of this week, after concluding its mission in Paris and London with representatives of the nations and commercial establishments to which Jordan owes debts.

'Harassment' of al-'Aqabah-Bound Ships Continues

JN0103073792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Allied warships stationed in the Tiran Straits at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba have escalated interception of vessels bound for al-'Aqabah and they turned away four vessels laden with food supplies for Jordan markets in the past 10 days, the Jordanian Shipping Agents Association (JSAA) said Saturday.

Despite the severe weather conditions and the Kingdom's needs of essential food supplies, the naval forces, instead of relaxing inspection measures, have stepped up their harassment of all types of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels, a JSAA statement said.

In the past 10 days the allied warships turned back four vessels saying that inspectors were not given easy access to various parts of the vessels, the statement said.

Jordanian officials were unavailable on Saturday to comment on the situation and the JSAA report, but the Jordanian government has repeatedly made representations to the Western governments over the continued harassment of al-'Aqabah-bound ships and reaffirmed that Jordan was strictly abiding by the sanctions on Iraq.

Former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri discussed allied inspection with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during Mr. Dumas' visit to Jordan last summer. Mr. Dumas had promised to take the matter up with the allies.

On earlier occasions the American government was approached over the issue. Mr. al-Masri took up the question with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and through other diplomatic channels.

In its statement issued Saturday the JSAA described the situation as very serious because the shipments were all food supplies heading for the Jordanian or the Iraqi markets. It noted that these supplies were not subject to U.N. sanctions imposed through Security Council Resolution 687, which excluded food and medical supplies bound for Iraq from the sanctions order.

The statement noted that Jordan was in urgent need for food supplies, particularly in view of the coming Holy Month of Ramadan.

The JSAA statement gave some details about the four vessels noting that all carried food supplies but were inspected by American warships and turned back.

According to the statement, the MV Sato Maru, carrying 755 tonnes of frozen meat for Jordan was banned from entering the Tiran Straits on Feb. 11 by U.S. naval inspectors even after an inspection of its manifesto.

The statement noted that the importers called the American embassy in Amman to intervene but no action was taken.

The statement said MV. Alan, which carried 13600 tonnes of sugar for Jordan was turned back on Feb. 22. American officers inspected the shipment and the cargo manifesto but refused to allow the ship entry, said the statement. It said that the importers were forced to divert the vessel to another port where half of the cargo was moved to another vessel so that the inspectors can have easy access to all the goods on both vessels.

MV Rize, which carried 1,400 tonnes of sugar for Jordan, was stopped and turned back by the American naval forces on Feb. 24, the statement said.

MV An Angel Champion, carrying 14,250 tonnes of sugar for Jordan, was turned back on Feb. 26 by the American naval forces, the statement said.

JSAA President Tawfiq Qa'war reaffirmed in a statement last week that Jordan was strictly honouring the sanctions against Iraq in compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. But, he added, the continued harassment has caused losses to the national economy estimated at $46 million.

In its statement Saturday, the JSAA said the stopping vessels laden with food supplies to Jordan from reaching al-'Aqabah has very serious consequences on the Kingdom's food security and was causing additional losses to the national economy in extra freight cost and insurance premiums.

Mr. Qa'war said the embargo on Jordan was unjustified and should end immediately if the national economy was to be improved.

U.S. Satellite Monitoring Iraqi Border Transit

JN0103135792 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 27 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] Washington—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from an informed American source that two weeks ago, the United States assigned a satellite to monitor traffic and movement across the Jordanian-Iraqi border, within the framework of tightening the siege on Iraq and preventing any materials being smuggled into that country.

The sources said Jordan has received several warnings from the United States to refrain from supplying Iraq with any materials. The U.S. Navy, stationed at the mouth of the Red Sea, has recently tightened its arbitrary measures against ships heading to the Gulf of Aqaba, turned back many of them, and prevented them from entering the port on the pretext that they are carrying goods destined for Iraq.

Jordan has repeatedly informed the United States that it is committed to the embargo, but the United States escalated the arbitrary measures toward Jordan.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has asked the Syrian Government to join Egyptian efforts to pressure the United States into lifting the siege on al-'Aqabah port because this siege has inflicted severe damage on the Jordanian economy and the port's activity.

The Syrian officials expressed readiness to do all they can with the U.S. Administration in order to lift this unjust siege on Jordan.

Inspection Teams Accused of 'Appeasing' Allies

JN0103121292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 92 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Iraq Is Not an Easy Prey for Invaders"]

[Text] It is clear that there is U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist determination to conspire against sisterly Iraq, and perhaps to attack it once more, in the hope of weakening it and destroying its strength, thus driving it out of the Arab-Israeli conflict, before whose peaceful and just solution the Shamir government is placing hundreds of arduous obstacles.

In order to weaken Iraq and freeze its role, or to choke it for good, the Western allies are trying to tighten the political and economic siege imposed on Iraq, isolate it, and incite ethnic and sectarian feuds in its north and south in order to divide it, tear off its limbs, involve it in a dangerous cycle of conflict and civil war, and then to assault and overthrow its leadership.

This talk does not come from us. It is derived from the statements and reports by the U.S. and Atlantic leadership. Otherwise, what is the meaning of all the pressures and threats against Iraq by the Security Council and its permanent members? What is the meaning of all this concern for the Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq at a time when they are ignored in dealing with Israel?

Why does the Security Council get angry when Iraq wants to convert its weapons factories to other peaceful industries, at a time when the Israeli arsenal is full of nuclear bombs and weapons?

Why does the Security Council continue to use two yardsticks and to be an instrument that serves the U.S.-Zionist alliance? What international legitimacy is it that allows the destruction of Iraq, the annihilation of its people, the starvation of its children, and the abandonment of its sons to fall victim to epidemics and diseases?

He who reviews the events of the Gulf crisis should note that the aggression against Iraq was premeditated. Since the aggression has not fulfilled all its objectives, there is a premeditated intention to launch a new aggression. The most important objective of the aggression is to target any Arab leadership that refuses to bow to the U.S. desire or to revolve in its orbit, and to destroy any Arab country that possesses the principles of steadfastness and confrontation against the colonialist and Israeli ambitions on Arab land, water, and resources.

Iraq has repeatedly said that it has converted its armament industries into peaceful industries. Iraq asks the Security Council to acquaint itself with the facts, but the inspection committees—which are only concerned with appeasing the allied aggressors and Israel—insist on telling lies, making false allegations, and practicing instigation against Iraq.

What we fear most is that the aggression against Iraq was only a prelude to constant aggression on the other Arab countries. The unjust campaigns and feverish threats against Libya reflect this aggressive U.S.-Zionist-Western trend. Therefore, the targeted Arab countries should stand by Iraq, because they are not far from the huge conspiracy, and Iraq is not easy prey for invaders and aggressors.

How can the United States and its allies say that they are eager to establish peace, security, and stability in the region when they have never stopped threatening Arab countries that have weight and a role in both war and peace?

U.S. Extends $20 Million Loan for Wheat

JN0303134492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan is to get a loan of $20 million from the United States to help it purchase about 115,000 tonnes of wheat from private American sources during 1992, according to an agreement signed Monday by Acting Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison.

The financial loan is being provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of Public Law 480, according to a press release by the U.S. embassy here.

It said that the loan was being extended at the soft interest rate of two per cent for the first seven years and at three per cent there-after. Repayment will begin following a grace period of seven years in 24 annual installments, according to the press release.

In a statement at the signing ceremony, the U.S. ambassador expressed hope that American assistance to Jordan will continue, noting that his country's assistance programme to the Kingdom existed between 1966 and 1979.

Now that Jordan is facing a situation requiring assistance, the United States is renewing this assistance programme to the Kingdom through new trends of cooperation, the ambassador was quoted as saying at the ceremony.

"The reason we had success this year (in obtaining the money) was because Jordan became eligible with the inflow of returnees for this aid on the basis of income per capita," Mr. Harrison said. "And when we knew that Jordan was eligible, we worked very hard with Washington and they were very willing to help because they realise the situation in Jordan and the need here for additional food supplies."

The move comes soon after Secretary of State James Baker testified before a congressional committee that the Bush administration supports an assistance programe of $77 million to Jordan. The latest moves on the part of American and Jordanian officials reflects a continuation of warming of relations, which were apparently strained during the Gulf crisis and war.

Present at the ceremony was Radi Ibrahim, Supply Ministry secretary general, who noted that U.S.-Jordanian cooperation, particularly in the economic fields, dates back for more than 15 years. He said that such cooperation has taken the form of long-term loans for the purchase of cereals and grants for the purchase of animal feed reaching up to $27 million in value annually.

In addition, said Mr. Ibrahim, Jordan also receives U.S. government subsidised wheat along with other countries of the Third World.

Referring to the new loan, Mr. Ibrahim said that it falls within the context of long-term loans normally offered to countries in need of assistance. He said that the wheat shipments will enable the Jordanian government to pursue its current policy of subsidising agricultural projects.

He also said the loan will ease the pressure on the government, which is currently involved in carrying out an economic restructuring programme as agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Blizzard Damage Estimated at JD20 Million

JN0203120592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Mar 92 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—Damages caused by the five snowstorms that hit Jordan this winter are estimated at JD 20 million, and the government is seeking means to raise the amount, which is considered to be conservative estimate, according to officials and concerned citizens.

The Cabinet is also debating whether to declare some parts of the country, like Bani Kinanah in the north and Al-Shawbak in the south, as "disaster areas," according to Labour Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti.

"Somehow, we will have to put up something like JD 20 million for repairs," Mr. al-Kabariti, who is acting Minister of Finance and a Parliament member from the south, told the Jordan Times.

Assessment reports submitted by various ministries and departments indicate a minimum of JD 20 million, according to the minister. Indicative of the work needed is an estimate that the Ministry of Public Works needs anywhere between JD 11 million and JD 14 million for repairing roads, since many of those damaged have to be wholy reconstructed. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources needs JD 2 million for the restoration of power to regions where pylons collapsed and substations were damaged.

In view of the enormity of the requirements, Mr. al-Kabariti said, "we have not yet decided if we are going to maintain the lines and roads the way the ministers have suggested."

The damage estimates do not include agricultural and industrial losses. In north al-Shunah in the Jordan Valley, which accounts for the bulk of Jordan's agricultural produce, "hundreds of dunums of land cultivated with seasonal fruits and vegetables are completely damaged," said a farmer from the area. Officials estimated the loss at JD 4 million.

In the north of the country, damage to trees, mainly olive, was put by local farmers at not less than 75 per cent of the total. "It is a horrifying scene. Most of us farmers were near tears when we saw the trees smashed by the weight of the snow, as if they were hacked," said a grief-stricken farmer from Kafr Sawm, a village 18 kilometres north of Irbid.

According to government officials quoted earlier in the Jordan Times, hundreds of refugee camp and Jordan Valley residents were left homeless after their homes' tin roofs caved in or structures collapsed.

The Kingdom yesterday continued to recover from the effects of the latest blizzard, which had hit Jordan as well as other countries in the region over the past week, brought life stand-still. [sentence as published] Businesses and government departments, as well as educational institutions, were resuming normal working hours after they were closed for over three days.

Buwayz on Washington Talks, European Aid

NC0303132792 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Free Lebanon correspondent Amal Ilyas at the Lebanese Foreign Ministry—live)

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that this round [of the peace talks] was meant to continue the dialogue, and not to reach a solution before the Israeli elections in June. He said that Lebanon has rejected several Israeli proposals, including one for a military agreement and another for a peace treaty. Among other things, Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] Since the beginning of this round of talks, we have been saying that the purpose of this round is to continue the dialogue more than to achieve real progress, in view of the fact that this round is being held on the threshold of Israeli parliamentary elections. Therefore, what is happening now was expected, and we must continue [the negotiations] despite all the difficulties.

Several possibilities were proposed to the Lebanese delegation, which expressed reservations or rejected them. The proposals included one for the formation of a military committee. Our stand on this issue was clear. We emphasized that the formation of any military committee must take place only in implementation of the principle of withdrawal, and the drawing up of a timetable for this withdrawal.

The Israeli side also proposed discussing a peace treaty. The Lebanese stand on this was very clear: Resolution 425 neither necessitates nor imposes such a treaty on Lebanon. The issue of peace is linked with the comprehensive work of the conference, particularly that concerning Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in implementation of Resolution 242. The Israeli side's merger of these two resolutions is a way to torpedo the talks taking place there.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister. With regard to the venue of future talks, it is being said that Israel has proposed Europe or a Middle Eastern country. In light of this, are we going to accept changing Washington as a venue?

[Buwayz] We have accepted Washington as the venue of the discussions out of our belief and conviction that it provides all the political, technical, and security conditions for the negotiators to carry out their task. Therefore, we do not deem it logical to change the venue of the talks, following the earlier agreement that Madrid would be the first venue, and then Washington. We do not see any justification for the delegations to move to another country. [end recording]

Responding on a question about the European Community's suspension of its aid to Lebanon because of the two German hostages, Buwayz hoped that the European countries, especially Germany, will take into consideration the fact that Lebanon has gone through a war, and that they will not link aid to the hostages issue. He said that Lebanon has not yet been officially notified of the suspension of the aid. He added that Lebanon will not deal with the hostage issue in a commercial manner.

Details on Karami Meeting With Syria's Khaddam

NC0203095892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The government situation, the south, and the ongoing preparations for administrative appointments and parliamentary elections were the focus of Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus yesterday.

The entire government situation was reviewed in the wake of reports about the possibility of changing the government, and the need to resort to this option, especially after a date has been set for a parliamentary session to debate the government situation.

It was agreed that internal and international circumstances do not allow the formation of a new Lebanese government. If the performance of some ministers is objectionable, this can be corrected, especially since the parliamentary general debate session slated for Thursday will give every minister an opportunity to defend himself and bear his responsibilities.

The Syrian side emphasized that all these are internal Lebanese affairs, and that Syria supports any Lebanese parliamentary or governmental decision which Lebanon deems appropriate in light of the situation in the south and the economic situation.

The various aspects of the issue of the south were discussed. Prime Minister Karami brought up several international calls for the Lebanese Government to control the situation in the south through its Armed Forces. He also brought up the American advice that all illegitimate activities be halted in the south in order to facilitate the Washington negotiations. Syria responded by emphasizing that, while providing logistic support, it is prepared to support any dec on the Lebanese Government adopts, and that Syria is in contact with Tehran on this matter. [passage omitted]

Germany Allegedly Promises To Free Hammadis

PM0303125392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Feb 92 p 1

["Germany Promises To Settle Hammadi Case"]

[Text] Nicosia, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Tehran has informed the elements holding the two German hostages of Germany's promise to find a way to facilitate the release of the two brothers, 'Abbas and Muhammad Hammadi, held in its prisons.

The sources added that the German judiciary will look for "some kind of formula" to reduce the sentences imposed on the Hammadi brothers. Maybe it is relying on medical reports on their mental and psychological condition, which reduces their responsibility for what they did.

The sources expected the kidnappers to release the two German hostages, Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig, first, hinting that, for German domestic reasons, it is difficult for the two steps to coincide.

The Hammadi brothers are serving a prison sentence on charges of hijacking a TWA plane to Beirut in 1985, and killing an officer of the U.S. Marines [as published] who was among its passengers.

A Lebanese ministerial committee comprising Michel al-Murr, Muhsin Dallul, and Sami al-Khatib yesterday contacted a number of Shiite religious and political figures in Lebanon and asked them for help in releasing the two Germans.

A source very close to the elements holding the hostages told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Lebanese ministerial committee's contacts are continuing in parallel with the contacts between Tehran and Bonn, particularly after Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged the elements holding the two Germans to facilitate their release.

These reports coincided with statements made yesterday by Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, in which he pointed to the possibility of resuming UN efforts concerning the hostages.

Meanwhile, informed sources have revealed that, before its forces assassinated 'Abbas al-Musawi, the former Hizballah secretary general, Israel received corroborated information that Ron Arad, the captive Israeli pilot, was outside Lebanese territory, and that it would not be easy to decide to liquidate him in retaliation for al-Musawi's assassination.

The informed sources refused to confirm the reports that Arad had earlier been transferred to Tehran, and they doubted that he is there now.

Defense Minister on Army Deployment in South

NC2902093892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] In a statement to our radio, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr stressed that the Lebanese Army in the south is ready to deploy in any area approved by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], the cabinet, and the UN General Secretariat. He pointed out that UN official Marrack Goulding told us that the United Nations rejects joint deployment in a single area, because of possible contradictions in military orders.

On the Lebanese Army's role in the south, al-Murr said that the Army is performing its duty in the best way possible in its areas of deployment. He added: We are preparing units and equipment for deployment if Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented.

Al-Murr denied that the reduction in the Defense Ministry budget will affect the basic sectors that concern the Army and its armaments. He noted that the Army only receives military assistance from Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, and Algeria.

Al-Murr asserted that Lebanese Army personnel in Jazzin receive their salaries from the Army command, and that the militia members who have been assimilated in the Army had their papers processed and have received their salaries.

Al-Murr said that there is a need for parliamentary elections. He denied that he is a member of the ad hoc committee on the two German hostages, as did Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin. Al-Amin said: With some serious efforts, and with the help of the Bonn government, a happy end can be found to this issue. He stressed the Lebanese Government's special interest in this issue.

Army Not a 'Police Force'

NC2902132892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr revealed that the Lebanese Army did not allow armed men to leave their camps during the aggression on those camps and their environs. He justified this by saying that they did not want to give the Israelis any pretexts.

In an interview with Voice of Lebanon, al-Murr said: Though the Israelis consider the Army a police force to prevent the resistance from crossing the border, this is not the Army's duty. When there is an infiltration and there are operations in the heart of the occupied territories, it means the resistance man carrying arms must have crossed areas that the Israeli Army and Lahd forces are guarding.

No Casualties Reported in Beirut Car Explosion

NC0303194192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] An explosion was heard in some parts of the capital this evening when a bundle of dynamite exploded under a car in the Qasqas area. The car was destroyed, but there were no casualties.

Militia Warns Hizballah of 'Painful Blows'

NC2902150292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] An agent Lahd militia source said today that the presence of Hizballah fighters in areas near the occupied border zone in southern Lebanon will exacerbate the security situation. The source said that the military

presence of Hizballah, and its public or covert deployment in southern villages, could be a prelude for new attacks on the border zone villages and northern occupied Palestine.

The source stressed that Hizballah could taste more powerful and painful blows at Israel's hands.

Villagers Flee Following 'Threat'

NC0303123792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Tension prevails in the villages of Yatar, Kafra, and Sribbin because of Agent Antoine Lahd's threat to attack these villages if resistance operations continue. This prompted the inhabitants to leave their villages.

These villages were subjected to an Israeli aggression last week. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters have flown over these areas.

UNIFIL: 'Nothing Out of the Ordinary'

NC0203124992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] A security source announced that an Israeli force yesterday entered the township of Burghuz, in the central sector of the security strip, searched it, and arrested a citizen.

The source added that a unit of the Norwegian UN contingent intervened, and engaged in a debate which culminated in the release of the citizen.

Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], refused to reply to a question on the new Israeli warning to Kafra and Yatar. Asked about a report by the Voice of the South that Kafra and Yatar have become armed bases for Hizballah, Goksel told our correspondent that at the outset of the battles which went on during the Israeli operation against Kafra and Yatar, armed groups flowed into the area. But, he added, these groups withdrew after the battles were over. The problem now lies in the presence of gunmen from Kafra and Yatar themselves, he remarked.

A UNIFIL source was asked whether there is an Israeli or South Lebanese Army military buildup at the outskirts of Kafra and Yatar. He replied that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the region.

In another development, Israeli warplanes overflew Tyre and neighboring areas, and conducted mock raids over the region this morning.

Youths Reportedly Barred From Leaving Villages

NC0303105392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Reports from the south say that the Lahd militia, for security reasons, has banned all youths between the ages of 14 and 30 from leaving their villages for areas outside the occupied territory.

According to the reports, the occupation Army and its agents fear the youths may help resistance fighters who oppose Israel and Lahd's militia, by providing them with military information or logistic support.

Israel Said To Impose Fines

NC2802051292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Israeli occupation forces have informed inhabitants of the occupied border areas that they will be fined $1,000 unless they tell their sons living in liberated villages to return home. The Israeli intelligence officer in charge of western al-Biqa' has invited the inhabitants of Marwahin, Yarin, al-Zallutiyah, and Umm al-Tut to a meeting in al-Naqurah to discuss the new measure.

Fadlallah on 'Currency Collapse,' Peace Talks

NC2902103092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] In his Friday sermon yesterday, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the shock of the national currency collapse is designed to divert the people's attention from vital issues, particularly that of confronting the Zionist enemy after the aggression against southern Lebanon, and the crime of the assassination of 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi. He said Lebanon's economy is weak and in a state of collapse, which we must not try to justify. He called on the government to shoulder its responsibilities and plan the economy, because it affects people's lives. He said: We notice that the regime and the government do not show their responsibility for the people. He noted that corruption is rife among old and new officials, who work to achieve their own personal interests.

On the Arab-Israeli negotiations, Fadlallah said that those required by the United States will take a long time, and will produce nothing until the people become used to normal ties and reconcile with Israel. He stressed that the U.S. policy is soft and does not put pressure on Israel.

Blames U.S. for 'All the Problems'

NC0103074092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has reiterated his warning of the consequences of negotiations with the Zionist enemy. He said that these negotiations pose a great danger to Arabs and the Islamic world. He added that the Arab-Israeli conflict is more than just a border dispute, because the roots of the conflict extend to religious, political, cultural, economic, and security differences.

His eminence said that the United States and Israel are seeking to prolong the negotiations to prepare the Arab nation to accept the Zionist entity as a neighbor and a

partner in the region. He stressed that the United States is responsible for all the problems battering Lebanon, noting that the United States is seeking to prevent economic Arab and European aid from reaching Lebanon, so as to put the country within its political orbit.

Referring to the plot being hatched against the Iraqi people, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: Contrary to the U.S. Administration's claim of expecting the downfall of Saddam, there are indications that the United States is intent on destroying the Iraqi people's potential. The present regime in Baghdad is pliant and must be maintained, as it can also be used to blackmail Arab countries in the Gulf region.

He added: What is even more humiliating and ignominious is the fact that pro-American Arab regimes are thinking of entrenching U.S. influence and safeguarding U.S. interests instead of standing on the side of their people.

Nabih Birri Reelected Amal Movement Leader

NC2902183292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The Amal Movement Congress today reelected Minister Nabih Birri as its leader. Dr. Ayyub Humayyid was elected deputy leader, and Haytham Jum'ah chairman of the Executive Committee. The congress, which concluded today, elected 19 members to the Political Bureau. The political document endorsed by the congress will be released soon.

Iran

Reports on Bombing of Kurds Said 'Sheer Lies'

LD0303121792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has strongly rejected the claims made by the spokesman of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front that the Islamic Republic of Iran was involved in bombing the Kurdish-inhabited regions of Iraq. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a refuge for the Kurds of Iraq, constantly in critical situations, and such accusations are sheer lies.

Our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran's military aircraft had not even flown in areas close to the border with Iraqi Kurdistan in recent days. He expressed surprise at the irresponsible remarks made by the spokesman of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front.

It should be noted that the REUTER and French news agencies reported such claims, citing a spokesman of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front.

Further on Accusations

NC0303132492 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 3 (AFP)—Iran on Tuesday denied it had bombed Iraqi Kurdish villages and charged that the Kurdistan Front, which made the allegations, had been "irresponsible."

"Iranian warplanes have not made any sorties during the past few days over border regions with Iraqi Kurdistan," a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

He said allegations by the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of rebel Kurdish parties battling the Iraqi Government, were "lies and were irresponsible," adding that Iran had always been a haven for Kurdish refugees.

A spokesman for the Kurdistan Front in Paris on Monday accused Iranian as well as Turkish planes of bombing Kurdish villages in northern Iraq.

"It is the first time the Iranians have done the same thing as the Turks," the spokesman told AFP, adding that 12 people were killed and five injured in the Turkish raids, which were acknowledged by authorities in Ankara.

U.S., Turkish Moves in Central Asia Assailed

NC2902164592 Tehran SALAM in Persian 15 Feb 92 p 16

[Commentary by Sa'id 'Alavi: "Ozal's Gift to ECO?!"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Assessing the objectives and future programs of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] requires lengthy discussion. Therefore we shall deal with only some of the issues relating to the negative role which Ankara pursues, and which has been coordinated with U.S. policies.

The Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union—whose boundries meet Iran—will constitute a security belt, and the far-reaching developments in this region will demand giving priority to resuscitating old Islamic-national ties and mutual relations in our foreign policies. We should also pay attention to any real and potential dangers which Iran might face from this region. The sensitivity of this issue has not escaped world arrogance and the United States, which is why U.S. moves in this area were accelerated before the ECO summit. [passage omitted]

The U.S. and Western propaganda machine has sounded the alarm on Iran's increasing political influence in the Central Asian republics. Western and U.S. mass media have also stressed the deterrent of the laicist Turkish Government in these regions, overtly stating that the objective is to thwart or eliminate the role of Islamic Iran among the region's Muslims.

But these efforts are not restricted to the Western mass media. High-level Turkish officials have also referred to the issue. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel,

after meeting U.S. President Bush during his visit to Washington last week, said that "Our two countries will cooperate to encourage the Muslim-inhabited Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union to model their governments on Turkey's laicist pattern."

The objective of the coordinated Washington-Ankara move appears at first glance to be to fill the region's political vacuum, and to violate the security of Iran's boundaries in the long term. It could be said that the United States is not very worried about the trend of events in the Persian Gulf; it believes that the situation is going in its favor and that the direct U.S. military presence will continue without obstacle or difficulty.

Washington's unilateral military ties with the reactionary shaykhs have increased. Saudi Arabia has joined the trend of compromise with Israel, and continues to serve U.S. and Western interests with a stupendous increase in its oil production. Therefore the United States does not see the slightest danger from the Persian Gulf region, and has embarked on a multilateral investment in the Central Asian republics. By capitalizing on the favored key role of Turkey, it is seeking to fill the region's economic, cultural, and political vacuum. [passage omitted]

On the eve of a regional cooperation pact involving the Islamic countries, Iran's policymakers would do well to appraise Turkey's negative role in this embryonic coalition. Should the ECO move toward practically strengthening independent regional cooperation and the Islamic identity of coalition countries be revived, we hope that Turkey's negative policies can be rectified.

Along with other issues, this subject should be among the priorities of our country's diplomatic apparatus, which has unfortunately not displayed any serious move in response to Ankara's hostile policies until now.

UN Urged To Condemn U.S. 'Rights Violations'

LD2902161592 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Commentary: "UN Credibility Depends on Condemnation of Self-Confessed U.S. Crimes"]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—In order to maintain its credibility before world nations, it is essential for the United Nations Organization to condemn the United States of America for human rights violations and its role in the killing of tens of thousands of innocent people.

U.S. President George Bush's recent disclosure that the American Administration backed Iraq during the 1980-88 war against Iran should be considered a blatant proof of U.S. violation of the sovereignty of other nations. Bush's acknowledgement was made shortly after outgoing U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar in his report to the Security Council last December declared Ba'thist Iraq as the aggressor party in the 1980-88 war against the Islamic Republic.

Quoting the U.S. President, the ASSOCIATED PRESS said on Wednesday that Bush was proud to have backed the Iraqi regime during its war against the Islamic Republic. Bush served as vice president for two terms under Ronald Reagan before being elected President in January 1989.

George Bush's acknowledgement is a source of disgrace for the U.S. Administration which can be used as evidence at any international tribunal for unmasking the real face of American statesmen as well as Washington's racist policies.

Under the present conditions when the U.N. has been entrusted with a prominent role in interpreting international laws concerning relations between countries, the world body is expected to consider for the first time the denunciation of the United States for its infringement of the sovereignty of nations and its crimes against human beings.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tour of South Reported

Urges Rapid Reconstruction

NC2602163292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, currently on a visit to Khuzestan Province to view the pace of reconstruction of the war-stricken areas of the country and to inspect the implementation of certain development projects, attended a meeting of Khuzestan construction and reconstruction officials last night.

The Central News Unit correspondent from Abadan reports:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Khuzestan reconstruction officials, and stressed that more funds and loans should be allocated to developing this region. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked all of the region's officials to exert greater efforts and haste in fulfilling their responsibilities in implementing reconstruction projects in the war-stricken areas.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also wished the executive officials of Khuzestan Province success in their service to the Islamic revolution and this region, and emphasized the need for greater participation by the Foundation of the Oppressed and the Self-Sacrificing Devotees, and all other executive departments, especially in water and sewage management.

During this meeting, the Khuzestan governor general presented the president with a report on the situation in the province regarding agriculture, health, education, hygiene, roads, energy, and industrial potential. In

another section of his report, the governor general referred to reconstruction in this province, saying: Since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1991], more than 140 billion rials have been utilized in reconstruction of war-stricken areas.

He requested that the president increase the funds allocated for reconstruction of the war-stricken areas in Khuzestan Province. [end recording]

During this meeting, the province's reconstruction officials also presented a report on the plans and projects for reconstruction, difficulties in certain infrastructure plans, and housing for war victims.

Continuing his visit to Abadan, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited some villages that had been reconstructed or were undergoing reconstruction, as well as some oases revived east and west of the Bahmanshir River, and he spoke to the villagers who had returned to the villages after reconstruction.

The president then visited the newly constructed port of (Chuepdeh) and spoke to launch owners and fishermen. He also inspected some reconstructed districts in Abadan and closely examined the progress made.

Praises Armed Forces at Base

LD2602220792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is currently visiting Khuzestan, arrived at Arvand Naval Base in Khorramshahr this morning to unveil the memorial plaque marking the reconstruction of the first phase of the base. The feat has been acomplished by the heroic personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president later reviewed units of the three forces on parade. He then participated at the morning prayer ceremony of units of the Armed Forces in Khorramshahr.

In his remarks, the President said he was delighted to inaugurate the Arvand Naval Base, which he named as a major center for resistance during the era of holy defense. [passage omitted]

The president, in addition to calling for remembrance of the martyrs of the imposed war—especially the martyrs of Arvand Naval Base—then stressed that the armed and security forces must have an active presence in reconstruction. He said: The Armed Forces as well as the security forces must definitely have a high degree of incentive in reconstruction.

The President added: What we expect of the Armed Forces is that they give the same devotion to the era of reconstruction as they did to the era of holy defense. As such, they must support the nation. God willing, the country would be rebuilt in a desirable way. [passage omitted]

Continuing his tour of the war-davasted areas of the south of the country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived at Khorramshahr around 1200 today, where he was given a magnificent welcome by the people of the town. [passage omitted]

Visits 'Strategic' Island

LD2802093392 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Abu Musa Island, P. Gulf, Feb 27, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during a visit here today issued orders for setting up of a slaughter house and an industrial fishing fleet on this strategic island, in western Persian Gulf.

The president also addressed cheering local people gathered to welcome him, saying "because of its special location the island is of high importance to us and in our view you people here are the guardsmen of a sensitive point in the country."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, saying the island could be one of Iran's major economic centers in the Persian Gulf, called on the people to look at their home island as a "great fortune and a precious gem."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani is now on a tour of Persian Gulf islands which has already taken him to Sirri and Faro Islands. He said with implementation of several major development projects many jobs would be created on the strategic island.

Returns to Tehran

LD2902150292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Excerpts] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned to Tehran this morning after a five-day visit to the southern provinces of the country.

In an interview with our reporter upon his arrival, the president referred to the beginning of work on three important infrastructure projects in the region, saying that the planned dam in Karkheh is the most important of them. He was pleased that Iranian experts and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps were handling all the work on building this dam. [passage omitted]

Referring to the important project to increase sugar cane cultivation and its satellite industries, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Within the next five years, around 2 million tons of strategic commodities will be supplied to the market. The most important of these will be sugar, chipboard, animal fodder, and pulp. [passage omitted]

He also referred to the beginning of work on a project to supply water to Abadan and its adjacent palm groves. He said that once the project was operative, a very good irrigation system would replace dependence on the tides,

a system with its own problems. The project will help increase the number of palm groves as well as productivity. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who also visited several islands in the Persian Gulf, commented on the islands, which are to make up a free trade zone, saying: After the Islamic revolution, our policy was based on the development of these islands; however, because of a lack of security in the Persian Gulf during the war, there was no opportunity for investment and major work. But now the ground is ready for work. [passage omitted]

The president said that the oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, which had been destroyed by the American forces, have been reconstructed quite well. He said: It is a source of pleasure for us to see that these platforms are active today at a better level than before the war. Of course, we had to suffer a very heavy cost, but the cost must be paid by the Americans. We have lodged a complaint in this respect, and we will receive damages. In any case, I want to thank our experts, who have done a good job in reconstruction.

Further on Visit by Jordanian Minister

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0303053992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Al-Khatib al-Tamimi, Jordanian minister of endowments and information [title as heard], in a meeting today with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, submitted a written message from King Husayn of Jordan and expressed Jordan's interest in expanding relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also presented a report on the situation in the occupied territories and noble al-Quds [Jerusalem].

Then, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while thanking King Husayn for his written message, expressed satisafaction at the growing trend of cooperation between the two countries, especially in the cultural field. He expressed the hope that nations in the frontline of the struggle against the occupying al-Quds regime may liberate the holy occupied territories through their resistance.

Memorandum Signed

LD0303054392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] On the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed between our country's minister of culture and Islamic guidance and Jordan's minister of endowment and holy Islamic affairs [title as heard throughout item], the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its readiness to repair the al-Aqsa mosque, which is under the official care of Jordan's Ministry of Endowment [as heard], and to cooperate in the reconstruction of the Shrine of the Companions, situated in Jordanian territory.

According to our correspondent, on the basis of the memorandum of understanding, the Jordanian side will place the necessary facilities at the disposal of convoys of Iranian pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia via Jordan.

Also, the two sides agreed to review ways of reopening the two countries' news offices, and to study the possibilities for joint production of television programs, as well as an exchange of television programs and films.

According to the report, before leaving Tehran, Mr. al-Khatib al-Tamimi, Jordan's minister of endowments and holy Islamic affairs, expressed satisfaction at the promotion of relations and cooperation between Iran and Jordan during an interview with our correspondent.

Our country's minister of culture and Islamic guidance, who was escorting him, having expressed his optimism on the future of these ties, hoped that the Jordanian endowment minister's visit to Iran will act as a prelude to the establishment of good relations between the two countries.